

The Baptist Record

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Angelique Jones relates God's grace through Liberian war

By Karen Benson

RIDGECREST (BP) — It's probably not happenstance that the word "angel" is part of Angelique Jones' name.

Nothing else in her life has been happenstance, or coincidental, or even just plain luck. In fact, the woman is a walking miracle.

Make that multiple miracles.

Consider what Jones, a Christian and a refugee of the Liberian civil war who arrived in the United States just weeks ago, has encountered, witnessed, or survived in the previous eight months:

- a deep, gnawing hunger, to the point of near-starvation that took 30 pounds off her already petite frame, and that took 50 pounds off her husband, who had once made a very good living as a dentist in the Monrovia suburb of Paynesville;
- the cruel deaths of her brother, sister-in-law, niece, and cousin at the hands of Liberian soldiers;
- the killing of her nephew, whom she had reared as a son, along with all the other occupants of the car they were driving from one area of the city to another;
- the death of her father from the trauma of the destructive war;
- having a bayonet pressed against her stomach, with the soldier threatening to "rip my stomach open," just after her husband had been threatened, as well;
- lying flat on the floor of her house while soldiers, who had surrounded the house, fired continuous rounds of ammunition into the house for hours,



Angelique Jones

long after all the glass had been shattered;

— staying on the run from advancing soldiers, running to relatives' homes farther away, then to friends' homes, and finally, just running, with calloused feet and no possessions, not knowing for sure where she would end up next;

— becoming a hostage in her own land and being forced to join hundreds of other hostages on a long march to a compound where they were confined and continually threatened;

— watching friends she had just spoken to during one of the marches be called out of the ranks by soldiers and shot on the spot, and then left to be eaten by roaming dogs;

— protecting, hiding, and treating a severely injured and traumatized female friend who had escaped from a "death squad," after being shot and left for dead, by swimming through a dirty swamp, where her whole family had been taken, shot, and killed;

— being forced to watch as soldiers grabbed babies away from their mothers, tossed the babies into the air, and then shot them in mid-air, as if they were shooting targets;

— lying on hard floors with a thin, queen-sized sheet the only protection for her and three other adults against swarms of mosquitoes that nonetheless penetrated the sheet, leaving them all covered with hard sores that developed from the bites, and leaving some, including her husband, suffering from malaria; and

— losing everything she and her husband owned; — their home, furniture, clothes, car, etc. — and being robbed at gunpoint of the only money (\$60) they had managed to take with them when they first fled.

Jones spoke of her nightmarish ordeal — and the "miracles from God" that happened daily throughout the experience — during "WMU Week" June 22-28 at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.

The week of training conferences, general interest conferences, and worship services is sponsored by Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union. WMU brought Jones to Ridgecrest, N.C., as a special guest for the week. In Liberia, Jones is president of Liberian WMU.

The only way she survived each day, Jones said, was to "bathe everything" in prayer. "Every day we recited the 23rd Psalm and the Lord's Prayer," Jones said.

Her appeal is for Southern Baptists "to be more curious about what goes on — to be more aware of what Christians around the world face."

And she especially hopes Southern Baptists will "not just read the news and then put it aside." At the very least, she said, "pray for the needs you read about."

She is amazed Americans have "so much food you have to diet, or count calories," Jones said, while much of the rest of the world looks for bits of food to keep from starving. "It's like you are living in a different world," she said.

"In this part of the world, people are very wasteful," she said. Leftovers — from what's left in a can of soda, to what's left of a piece of meat — could make the difference between someone living or dying elsewhere in the world, she said.

Jones cited several specific prayer requests for her country:

— "Pray that the Lord will appoint leaders of the country at this time who will fear him as God," Jones said. An interim government has just been established in Liberia that is recognized by "all of Africa," she said. "We need to cooperate with this government, because fighting at this time is senseless. Everything has been destroyed."

— "Pray that whatever has happened to all of us who suffered — that we will forgive," Jones said.

— "Praise God that there are missionaries who are at this very time sacrificing to help heal the wounds of the Liberian people," Jones said. "We need to pray for them. They are in a very difficult situation, and they desperately need our prayers."

Just like she did during the traumatic days of Liberian civil war, Jones clings today to the power of prayer, and there's not a doubt in her mind the Lord will answer those prayers.

She's seen it happen over and over again. And she believes in miracles. Maybe that's one reason her name just happens to start with "Angel."

Benson is Communications Manager, WMU.

MY ANTI-ABORTION TESTIMONY

By Hillary A. Haik

Being 20 and single, finding out I was pregnant definitely wasn't pleasant news. I had recently been accepted by a computer college in Atlanta, and was all set to begin a new life. Needless to say, that life was to be put on hold.

I was faced with one of the most important decisions of my life, so far. How was I going to handle this? I knew I had options, but this was too important to make a mistake. I could keep the baby, and rely on the state to help with feeding and clothing him, and be a single parent. This would have worked, but I feel every child is entitled to a home with two loving parents, and all the necessities of childhood. Most important, he needs to be reared in a stable Christian environment.

These were things I knew I could not provide, and it would be selfish of me to take a chance with my baby's life. He wouldn't understand why "Mommy" was always at work, (and being a "latch-key" child myself, I know the depression and loneliness that can ruin a childhood).

Another option was abortion, which was something I had heard about all my life, but I hadn't actually thought

about. This was my child, and part of me. I believe a baby is a baby from the moment of conception. The thought of killing something with the same thoughts and feelings as mine is as bad as murder. This is the only word for it.

There was one thing for me to do. I decided to let my baby be adopted. There are so many childless couples out there waiting to adopt. They want to give these little people a chance for a good life full of love. I know there are some people who are wary of adoption because of stories we hear about abuse in foster situations. This is why I feel private adoptions between the birth-mother and adoptive parents is the best answer. The birth-mother is also able to get to know the couple, and can therefore rest assured that the baby is safe and well taken care of.

My aunt knew of a wonderful couple who could not have children. For many years they have been on waiting lists with no results. Being a Baptist minister and his wife, they have moved a few times and they were required to reapply at an agency in each new town. This made things very difficult for them.

I had my aunt contact them as soon as I had made my decision, and that was the beginning of the best experience of my life! I know the Lord had his hand in everything leading up to, and following, that point.

The day we contacted them was the wife's birthday (we didn't know this until later). You can't imagine what a great feeling it was to give her such a gift! We began getting to know each other through phone calls and letters because they live out of state.

At first it was a little awkward, but as time passed we became very close. They were the ideal family for my baby to be a part of. We found many things in common and I thank the Lord for leading us to one another. On June 11, I was able to meet the mother-to-be face to face for the first time. I felt I had known her all my life. She was such a special person, I knew instantly that my baby would be the luckiest child in the world!

We had lunch a few times, and she even went to the doctor with me. Seeing the joy in her face when she heard the baby's heartbeat, I felt a peace I hadn't felt in a long time.

The following Friday (we had

planned to go to the doctor again) I had a surprise for her. When she arrived to pick me up I was in the early stages of labor! We were both very excited and we decided to walk around the mall until I felt ready to go on the to the hospital. The Lord worked things out so she could be the one to bring me there.

At 8:44 p.m., our son was born. He



weighed 7 lbs. 10 ozs., and was healthy and alert. I had the pleasure of placing him in her arms only minutes later, and seeing them together gave me a marvelous feeling! She stayed at the hospital and she checked on me between trips to the nursery to feed the baby.

I truly thank God for letting me bring joy to this wonderful family. I'm also very glad I didn't have an abortion, especially after seeing the miracle that is my son. I rest easy at night knowing he is loved, safe, and happy.

We've promised to keep in touch, and he will know who I am. He'll also know that I loved him enough to let him live, then give him up. This means more to me than I can express with mere words.

If there is someone out there who may be facing a decision, please consider a private adoption! If our story can save at least one life and make another family happy, then I will feel like I have accomplished something for the Lord... and for them.

Hillary Haik lives at Rt. 3, Box 187, Meadville, MS 39653. She is a member of Mt. Zion Church, Pike County.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

No discipline, no disciples

A disciple is one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another. Discipline is training that corrects, molds, or perfects the mental faculties or moral character, as defined in Webster's Dictionary. We are commanded to go forth and "make disciples" in the evangelistic task of the church. How are we doing?

Thus far, we do not have this information in the annual church letter. We have baptisms and number of additions but nothing yet on disciples made. Some churches are doing a fair job at this, but for the most part, it is seldom stressed. The church, as the "sanctifier of the status quo," continues to make a few disciples and many joiners.

Is it time for the church to get tough? "The soft sell of a soft gospel has attracted soft people to soft jobs," says Robert Hudnut. We may feel a bit uncomfortable around a spiritually disciplined person. An athlete works at weight lifting, and we admire the muscle and discipline. Practice the piano eight hours a day and we gasp in admiration, but let a person fast for several days or pray for four hours, and "he's strange."

Jesus was noted for his solitude, fasting, and prayer. He also taught that one is not spiritually superior because he practices fasting, tithes

mint, anise, and cummin, or even compasses the world to make one convert. John the Baptist was an ascetic of the first order and drew from Jesus a high compliment of "among those born of women there is not one greater."

What a marvelous opportunity of church growth and expansion when the rich young ruler came to Jesus. Upon hearing of the discipline he went away sorrowfully. Jesus lost the man; he did not lose his gospel. The church is at war, and it is difficult to fight with an undisciplined army. The British member of Parliament expressed it: "Things have come to a pretty pass when our religion interferes with our private lives." The Boy Scouts have tougher requirements for membership and certain civic clubs exercise more discipline than many churches. Self-denial means non-fat yogurt instead of ice cream in this generation.

Can we set aside 30 minutes a day for prayer and meditation? Would we last a day in silence? How about two weeks in a mission overseas, or a youth camp, city slum, or hospital ministry? Intercessory prayer for revival, for missionaries, for your church — how long could we stick with it? Are we mature Christians when it comes to racial prejudice, a willingness to change, or labeling peo-

ple? Are church renewal, home-marriage renewal, and mission renewal a bit too much for us? One prophet says we are witnessing the last years of the church, our educational system, and city hall... in fact, all the old structures of authority and discipline are under siege. None other than George Orwell said, "The Christian churches would probably not survive on their own merits if their economic basis were destroyed." That hurts!

Substituting activity for spirituality, television for quiet time, decisions for disciples, or comments for commitment, will hardly advance the Kingdom. A disciple of Christ is one who studies. He is a learner and follower. His life is commitment; someone else now has prior claim on it. A disciple is one who shares. He now belongs to the "koinonia," the community of the shared life, shared resources, and is willing to bear another's burdens. A disciple is one who serves. He belongs to the order of the royal towel. The hungry, the weary, those in prison, know his "and ye visited me" ministry.

It has been noted "we let Christ comfort our troubles, but we do not let him trouble our comforts." Meanwhile, a weary Christless world stands at the gate and says, "Show me."

What must a church offer?

By Sarah Zimmerman & Chip Alford
church programs and services.

Churches must base their activities on resources and members' gifts, says D.G. McCoury, Sunday School Board pastoral leadership consultant.

"The reason programs exist is to help churches get their job done," notes the author of *The Southern Baptist Church Growth Plan*. Defining the job of the church, then, is a key in determining what programs are essential.

The same might be true for missions education, music, and other programs. Both Woman's Missionary Union and the Brotherhood Commission are studying ways to adapt their programs to changing needs.

An obstacle to making changes is the assumption that the best way to do things is the way they have always been done.

"Because it worked, we tend to keep hanging on," says Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Valley Community Church in Mission Viejo, Calif. "The biggest detriment to change is our past successes."

"Structures aren't meant to last," Warren says. "No program works forever, and in a rapidly changing society, programs work for shorter periods."

Harry Piland, director of the Sun-

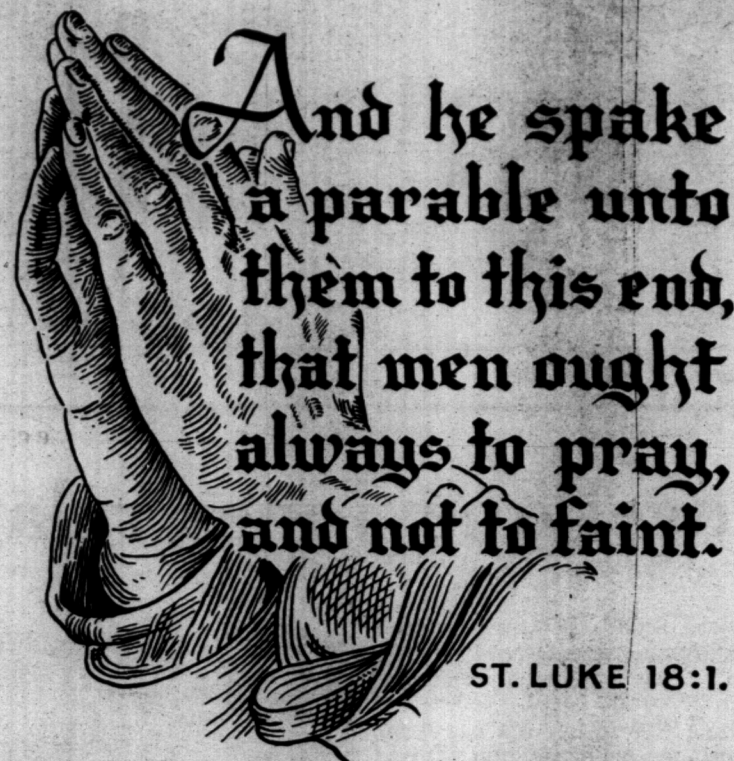
day School Board Sunday School division, says his motto is "rigid in principle; flexible in application."

It is important to keep the traditional base of Sunday morning services for people who expect that, Piland says. But he also sees the need to offer Bible study in different times and different places.

The Sunday School Board is developing a plan to help smaller churches offer training on a short-term project basis rather than through on-going programs, Cook says. *We're Family: Help for Smaller Membership Churches*, a forthcoming Convention Press book, will give churches practical suggestions for project-based training, he says. Supplemental information also will be available in the Sunday School Leader: Small Church Edition, available in October.

Whether the program lasts six weeks or year round, Robinson says events should be judged by the church's mission statement. Weighing activities in light of clearly stated priorities helps determine if programs help the church fulfill its mission or its calendar.

Zimmerman writes for HMB, Alford writes for BSSB, and Mark Wingfield, who writes for HMB, contributed to this story.



Gleaning from the Southern Baptist Handbook

We gained 189 new churches this past year. The total is now 37,974 and total membership increased by 130,000 to 15,044,413. Baptisms were up for the third year in a row at 385,031. Rural-area churches dropped from 83.8 percent of the 37,974 to 59.4 percent.

Mississippi gave \$7,009,484 through the Cooperative Program and \$7,092,252 in designated gifts. This totals \$14,101,736 for the state, national, and world ministries. We were eighth in the nation in mission giving.

The Foreign Mission Board reports 3,859 missionaries in 121 countries. Africa continues to lead the four major areas in baptisms and membership. The Home Mission Board reports one Baptist church for every 1,499 people in Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, and Kentucky, and one Baptist church for every 117,919 in the New England states. There are 3,740 appointed personnel and 833 Mission Service Corps workers.

The average church in Mississippi has 242 resident members, Sunday School enrollment of 184, baptized 10 and received 13 by letters, total receipts averaged \$113,394 and gave \$19,134 to missions (\$11,088 given through the Cooperative Program). Church debt average was \$110,694.

Total gifts were up 3.5 percent to \$209,122,280. This is \$309.43 per capita (SBC average: \$303.62). Mississippi churches gave \$36,797,463 to missions. This is \$54.45 per capita (SBC average: \$47.76).

Mississippi led all the Southern

states with 75 percent of the churches in Discipleship Training and only seven states had more enrolled in music ministries. Some 28.6 percent of our churches are growing, 53.6 percent are plateaued, and 17.8 percent are declining. There are eight churches with more than 3,000 members and 110 churches with less than 50 members. There were 546 of the 1,973 churches with a weekly evangelistic visitation program, 779 have church media libraries, and 1,442 have the state paper in their budgets. Only Alabama and Texas had more churches with the state paper in their church budgets.

Vacation Bible Schools continue as a leading source of prospects (10,497 prospects discovered) and professions of faith (2,458). There were 1,669 schools in Mississippi enrolling 154,324 pupils.

Only Georgia and Texas reported more Baptist or Baptist preference students than Mississippi (52,145). We were also third in the number of students involved in campus ministries (19,084). The Mississippi Baptist Medical Center continues to be one of the largest hospitals among Baptists in their efficient operation, and the Children's Village, with 257 residents, is sixth in size among Baptists.

The Handbook should be well received by pastors and administration in the colorful new format. It is loaded with helpful information and will be well-worn by year's end. — GH

GEORGIAN SCHOLAR TRANSLATES BIBLE: TBILISI, GEORGIA (USSR) — A Baptist scholar from Georgia translates the Bible in his spare time. Malkhaz Songulashvili teaches in the university in Tbilisi. Unmarried, Malkhaz lives with his parents and his brother's family. After his classes at the university, he sits down with his very rudimentary laptop computer and resumes his translation work on the Bible. Malkhaz works with a committee for the translation of the Bible into modern language. The group has already completed work on the Georgian Bible which was printed in 1989. A version of the New Testament in today's Georgian language is just now coming off the press.

The latest version is thought to be the first Bible in the USSR in contemporary language. — EBPS

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Worship is . . . between God and the worshiper

By Charles Willis

RIDGECREST, N.C. — Every activity of the church should be the result of worship, a minister of music told his counterparts during Church Music Leadership Conference at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.

Larry White of First Baptist Church in Norfolk, Va., said church "work" which does not grow out of worship is "just planned activity."

"Ministry to others who have needs, giving to the church, sharing our love with fellow believers should be the result of worship," he continued.

Individual as well as congregational worship is important, he acknowledged,

especially for ministers of music.

"Before I lead in public worship, I need to prepare myself with private worship," he said. "I don't feel I have led the people in worship unless I have worshiped, too. We need to set an example for our people to come prepared for worship."

Eugene Hattaway, minister of music at First Baptist Church of Knoxville, Tenn., agrees that much of what people do in and for the church is from one person to another, "but worship is communion with God."

He said ministers of music play the role of a prompter in worship, often failing to be a worshiper.

"That should not be," he declared. "We also play the role of the critic," he admitted. "We analyze everything; we take it all apart. As a worship plan-

"We have become such a multi-media society, we expect to be entertained."

— Hattaway

ner, I want everything to run smoothly, but I desperately need to put that aside and be one of the worshipers so that I have interaction with God."

Hattaway said God initiates worship by calling us to him, "but the most difficult thing we do is worship. We have become such a multimedia society, we expect to be entertained."

White concurred that "we shouldn't worship because of what God will do for us, but because of what he is to us."

Minister of music Glen Adkins of First Baptist Church in Augusta, Ga., cautioned that "worship is a relationship between God and the worshiper, not between the worshiper and the worship leader."

He said worship leaders should help worshipers "see beyond the habitual," and to view diverse worship styles as

"our strength, as long as we respect those who worship differently from us. 'The bottom line is intention,' Adkins said. 'Worship should always glorify God and edify the people.'"

Hattaway said he believes persons should respond to God at the conclusion of every worship experience.

"If we have been truly at worship, we cannot leave that experience the same person we were when we began."

Church Music Leadership Conference was sponsored by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's Church Music Department.

Willis writes for BSSB.

National WMU president outlines women's role

By Karen Benson

RIDGECREST (BP) — Women are losing ground in positions of leadership and ministry in Southern Baptist life — and unless the situation is turned around, the denomination will continue on a path that runs counter to the expressed will of God in relationship to women.

Carolyn Miller, the newly elected national president of Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, issued that warning June 26 during a five-hour Church Study Course conference on "The Role of Women in Southern Baptist Life" at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.

"The original idea when God first created men and women was that of partnership," Miller said. Even though historically the Southern Baptist Convention never has lived up to that ideal of partnership, the SBC took a major step backward in 1984, she said, when messengers passed a resolution "On Ordination and the Role of Women in Ministry."

"That year we lost the partnership image that God gave us from creation, and which Jesus then tried to restore in the New Testament," she said.

The resolution mentions the words "ordination" and "ministry" only four

times each in its 86 lines and 542 words. But it mentions "women" 15 times and especially draws attention to woman being "last in the creation" and "first in the Edenic fall."

"The problem in that resolution wasn't with 'ordination' or 'ministry,' but with womanhood in general," Miller said. "Why is it that when translated by men, the Scriptures men use are those that seem 'against women'?"

An equally strong case could be made "against men," Miller said, citing Scriptures that show:

— Sin came into the world through "one man" (Romans 5:12);

— A man was the first to blame another (Genesis 3:12);

— The first liar was a man (Genesis 3:10);

— The first murderer was a man (Genesis 4:8);

— Jesus was denied by a man, betrayed by a man, and doubted by a man;

— Jesus was condemned to death by men, and men drove the nails into his hands and shoved the spear into his side.

"If we were to add up the Bible's testimonies and divide them accord-

(See WMU on page 4)

Graham challenges Soviet pastors to proclaim gospel

MOSCOW — Evangelist Billy Graham greeted more than 4,000 pastors and lay leaders from across the Soviet Union, exhorting them to take advantage of the new openness in the troubled nation by proclaiming the Gospel boldly to non-believers.

Graham's remarks came at the opening session of a five-day School of Evangelism, the first such training conference in Soviet history. The specially invited church workers, who packed a Moscow sports arena to capacity, represented virtually all of the country's denominations, including many formerly outlawed independent groups.

"It is time to do God's work now," the evangelist declared. "The eternal destinies of men and women and nations are at stake."

Among those who had come to learn how to do the job of outreach better was Vitali Yevdokimov, an aging lay person of a small church in a village near Rostov. As he surveyed the crowd, tears spilled down his cheeks. He said he had lived through many years of great difficulty for the church

under atheist regimes. "I never dreamed anything like this could ever be possible," he said.

Soviet Baptist leader Grigori Komendant, chairman of the School, thanked Graham for helping to make the historic event possible. He predicted it will make a significant difference for Christian churches and their future work in the Soviet Union.

Each participant paid his or her transportation costs to travel to Moscow, while the Graham organization provided lodging and meals on the campus of Moscow State University, along with a packet of seminar notes and books (including a Russian Bible).

Upon his arrival, Graham told reporters he had seen many changes between his first speaking visit to Moscow in 1982 and his current one. He noted that because of past restrictions, most Protestants had virtually no opportunity for formal theological and other training for church work. He said the School of Evangelism is a small effort to overcome that lack.

The Second Front Page

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New program offers help for churches in conflict

By Tim Nicholas

If a church in trouble is willing to call for help, that help is now available, according to Louis Smith, director of the MBCB's Church-Minister Relations Department.

Smith describes the new program as that of mediation for churches in conflict. The conflict he is talking about usually takes place when a congregation and a staff member are having difficulty getting along.

"Sometimes it's where the goals of the pastor do not fit the goals of the church," says Smith. "Leadership style could be another problem — where the pastor wants to make all the decisions and the church membership wants to be a part of the decision making process."

Smith says the other end of the spectrum is where a church has a history of not keeping its pastors very long.

The idea for a mediation service came about more than a year ago through the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's advisory committee for Smith's department. They studied approaches and even drew up

qualifications they thought might be helpful for mediators.

Early this year, Norris Smith of the Sunday School Board trained nine persons to serve as volunteer mediators. "The day we started the training, we received a call from a deacon body asking if there was any help available to assist churches having difficulties," says Smith. "They had no idea we were planning such."

"Usually a church waits until it is too late for mediation . . ."

The way it works is for a church to contact Smith's office or the local director of missions. After making certain the DOM is aware of the process, Smith or his mediator will require an invitation from both parties in the church. Smith cites the book of Matthew in the Bible for the model for

settling disputes among Christians.

After a mediator is selected who is acceptable to both sides, a rigorous process begins. It includes having the church in business session vote to participate in the mediation.

After the process — which includes a series of questionnaires and then meetings with the conflicting parties and the whole congregation — the mediator brings recommendations. The church is not required to follow the recommendations, "but they usually relate to how the church (membership) can begin to relate to one another again," says Smith.

The problem with such a plan is that usually a church waits until it is too late for mediation to be effective. That is called the intractable level, "where it is almost impossible to resolve the conflict without deep hurt and division."

Adds Smith, "Ordinarily, you want to contact someone when it is at the problem level — where people feel that there is a problem and 'let's get on it and let's solve it.' That's when to call for help."

Missouri board recommends BJC allocation in 1992 budget

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (ABP) — After lengthy debate, the executive board of the Missouri Baptist Convention voted July 9 to recommend a \$15,000 allocation to the Baptist Joint Committee.

The amount will be part of the \$15.7 million 1992 convention budget that will be presented to the state convention for approval in October.

However, the money will not come from funds targeted for the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program, the

denominational budget that supports missions and ministries worldwide.

The Missouri action came after the Southern Baptist Convention in June eliminated all Cooperative Program funding for the Baptist Joint Committee, a Washington-based religious-liberty coalition. The SBC now has assigned religious-liberty issues to its Christian Life Commission, based in Nashville, Tenn., and Washington.

Paul Brooks, pastor of First Church of Raytown, expressed concern the

decision to include funds for the BJC would be misinterpreted.

"My feeling is that this vote would be a statement to SBC leaders or whether we will be involved in a national political agenda," Brooks said. "We should leave the budget like it is and not embroil ourselves in controversy."

Persons on both sides of the debate noted the vote would alienate some people regardless of what action was taken.



Chaplains endorsed

Two chaplains were endorsed by the Southern Baptist Chaplains Commission to serve in Mississippi. Capt. John Bond (left, with wife Susan) will serve at Columbus Air Force Base; Lt. Richard Moon (with wife Charlotte) will serve at the Navy Seabee Base in Gulfport. Twenty-nine chaplains and pastoral counsels were endorsed this spring at a service at First Church, Decatur, Ga. Certificates of endorsement were presented by Home Mission Board representatives, Huey Perry, Lew Burnett, Bill Donovan, and Paul Stephenson. (HMB Photo)

WMU

From page 3.

ing to gender, then man does not come out any better than woman," Miller said.

But making such lists and tallying up points by gender do no good, when the whole exercise runs counter to the teachings of Jesus on the role of men and women, Miller said.

"It all boils down to this: woman is not independent of man, and man is not independent of woman. We are not independent of each other. That was God's plan of partnership," she said.

"We're going backwards, ladies!" Miller warned. "We've gone backwards in leadership roles for women in the culture of the '90s."

The attitudes of some SBC leaders toward women in general and toward WMU in particular are in need of adjustment, Miller said. For many men, their attitude toward WMU "is that we are to bake their cookies" for church events, she said.

Of the few women leaders in Southern Baptist life and history, most have come from WMU, Miller said. For that reason, the men or the churches who feel threatened by women "are cutting out WMU!" Miller warned.

"You need to realize what is happening in your churches. Some of you don't even realize that's why you're having a hard time getting WMU going in your churches!" she said. "It's coming faster and faster, people. They do not want women leaders, so they're killing WMU."

Miller also issued a strong warning about AWANA, an independent organization for youth that advocates Scripture memory and strict adherence to its creeds, and which is infiltrating Southern Baptist churches.

Although it might look all right at first glance, a closer look will reveal the program does not teach the security of salvation; missions is never mentioned; the program does not undergird Southern Baptist beliefs; and other such flaws, Miller warned.

"UNREGISTERED" SOVIET BAPTISTS PRAISED: MOSCOW — Once persecuted, "unregistered" Soviet Baptists are doing public relief work and have received positive coverage from Tass, the official Soviet news agency. Baptists who have refused for years to officially register their churches with the government still have no legal status, but are acting as a channel for medical and relief supplies from Soviet emigrants in Germany. The latest aid shipment included 35 tons of food, clothing, medicine and medical equipment. In cooperation with a Russian Orthodox priest, the Baptists also obtained a Bible for each member of the Russian republic's Supreme Soviet.

WMU members have been "holding our breaths" for too long during the recent years of the denominational controversy, hoping it would either get better or go away, Miller said. "It's time to quit holding our breaths and get out on the edge of a changing world — or we will die!" she urged.

"Historically, we have been so far ahead of the men, in terms of starting social revolutions," she said. As women challenge a '90s religious culture that puts women down, they need to go about the task "in a servant role," she said.

Miller's own view of ordination, she said, is "all men and women are ordained by God at the point of salvation to preach and teach the Great Commission." The Bible never mentions "ordination" — whether for men or for women, she said.

Any ceremony of ordination is a culturally oriented one in which a local church affirms a calling to a special place of ministry, she said.

But the call to evangelize the world is not culturally oriented or gender-specific, Miller said. "I don't believe God would give his mandate of the Great Commission to only half of the world (the men). He needs all of us to fulfill his mandate."

She also urged WMU members to re-think their established ways of "doing WMU." "Don't schedule your Baptist Women meetings on Tuesday mornings 'because you've always done it that way!'" Miller admonished.

"We've got to find more opportune times to be involved in missions."

Miller challenged the women to quit waiting for men to give them permission to do the task God has called each of them to do. "If you're a Christian woman, you're already a minister. Men do not have to give you credentials to minister. God gave you the credentials already. And you are only accountable to him!"

"So speak with Christ's authority. Know what you're talking about. Don't make rash statements. Speak in love, not anger. And bathe everything you say and do in prayer."

Benson is Communication Manager, WMU.

Preschoolers meet music: crucial foundation laid

By Charles Willis

RIDGECREST, N.C. — An introduction to church music in the preschool years can be the foundation for a lifelong church relationship, a preschool music curriculum writer said during Church Music Leadership Conference.

Nan Grantham, a music associate at First Church, Bossier City, La., said she believes early exposure to church music "lays a foundation that is crucial in later years."

"Introduce preschoolers to hymns, and cultivate a friendship for life," she preaches to preschool music leaders.

"I really believe it keeps children in the church," she said.

Grantham was a preschool and children's worker for 21 years at Broadmoor Church, Jackson, until a

recent transfer to Bossier City.

"I was able to see my first preschool group in Jackson graduate from college — a rare, rare privilege." Today, she said there are preschool and children's choir workers who were in her choirs.

"It definitely brings them back," she continued. "When I ask them why they are working with children's choirs, they credit their childhood music experience and say they feel they owe it to this new generation."

"As they grew up, the music began to meet needs in their lives. They want today's children to have the same thing they had."

Grantham said the formative preschool years are important in forming a love for church music.

"They have so many other activities as they get older," she observed. "Unfortunately, parents tend to let other things dominate when children begin school, so we feel strongly about getting them excited about music early."

While most preschoolers are not readers, Grantham said they learn a surprising amount about music by "hearing, feeling, and moving to it before they ever see it."

As examples, she cited teaching preschoolers to tap out a steady rhythm, how musical pitch moves up and down and how sounds can be soft and loud. More importantly, she said, is the opportunity, through texts

preschoolers can understand, to teach them basic Christian ideas, such as, "I can talk to God."

In fact, she suggests using songs from The Baptist Hymnal that are appropriate for preschoolers.

"We used to have to look to find appropriate hymns in the earlier hymnals," she said, "but in the new hymnal, there are approximately fifty that are appropriate for preschoolers and children."

In addition to learning songs they can carry with them for life, preschoolers recognize in church services tunes, words, musical fragments, or phrases of hymns they have heard in preschool choir.

Grantham, a grandmother whose children were reared in preschool and children's choirs, didn't lose her interest in preschool music as her children grew older.

"I love it," she declared. "There is an indefinable quality about preschoolers that appeals to me. They are so trusting and so eager. They keep you young."

Grantham said when she moved to Bossier City, the one thing that made her feel at home as she walked through the halls as a newcomer to First Church was the sound of children singing.

"It's the same wherever you go," she reflected.

Willis writes for BSSB.

Harrington is new DOM in Monroe

Monroe Association has called Jimmy Harrington to serve as director of missions, effective July 1. Harrington



Harrington

goes to the director of missions position from Antioch Church, Columbus. He had served Antioch as pastor for eight years.

Other pastorates include Star Church, Star, and Anchor Church, Water Valley.

Harrington is a graduate of William Carey College and Southeastern Seminary.

He was a member of Time, Place, and Preacher Committee, 1990-91, Committee on Board Organization, 1989-1990, and Teller's Committee, 1989, for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. He served as chairman of Lowndes Association Nominating Committee, 1990-1991.

The family will reside in Amory. The new mailing address is P. O. Box 127, Becker, MS 38825.

Tri-County calls Herrin as DOM

Archie Herrin became the new director of missions for Lawrence, Marion, and Walthall associations on



Herrin

June 10, going from the pastorate of Bethel Church, Monticello.

He is a graduate of William Carey College and Southwestern Seminary.

Former pastorates include First Church, Unadilla, Ga., and Bethsaida Church, Dublin, Ga. Before then, he was education and youth director for Bethesda Church, Burleson, Tex.

After he returned to Mississippi in 1980, he served Lawrence Association as Sunday School and VBS director and later as chairman of evangelism, moderator, and in several other positions. He has been a member of the Tri-County Executive Committee and a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

He and his wife, Barbara, are parents of two teenagers.

New Sunday School lesson writers begin their task

Three new lesson writers began doing the Sunday School lesson commentaries for the Baptist Record for the July 11 issue and will continue through December of this year.

Kiely D. Young is writing the Uniform lessons; Don Dobson is writing the Life and Work; Randy W. Turner is writing the Bible Book.

Young, pastor of First Church, Greenville, had previously held pastorates in Texas and in Mississippi (Hope at Philadelphia and Liberty at Toombsville).

Born in Vicksburg, he was graduated from Meridian High School, Mississippi College, and Southwestern Seminary, with M. Div. and D. Min. from the latter.

He and his wife, Penny, have three children. He lists as his hobbies family activities, golf, hunting, fishing, woodworking, and landscaping.

Don Dobson, pastor of Collins Church, Collins, native of Hattiesburg,

was graduated from Purvis High School, William Carey College, and New Orleans Seminary.

Previously he had been pastor of New Zion Church, Tylertown, and Buck Creek Church, Richton, and associate pastor of First Church, Hattiesburg.

Dobson and his wife Debbie have two children. His hobbies are fishing, hunting, and reading.

Randy W. Turner, pastor of Parkway Church, Natchez, was born in Memphis. He and his wife, Sharon, have two children.

Turner is a graduate of Magnolia Heights High School, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary.

Formerly he served as pastor of Pocahontas Church, Pocahontas, and as pastor or associate pastor in two Georgia churches. His hobbies are golf and duck hunting.

He is a member of the Baptist Record Advisory Committee.

Vets give time, mission service

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — On three short-term, volunteer mission trips, veterinarian D.J. Crawinkle has carried in donated supplies, conducted animal clinics, taught veterinary medicine, and used a borrowed heart monitor to diagnose the illness of a Baptist pastor in Bolivia.

Crawinkle, who teaches veterinary medicine at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and attends Stock Creek Church, is president of the National Association of Baptist Veterinarians, an organization which advocates involvement of veterinarians in missions and provides support for eight foreign missionary couples involved in veterinary ministry in Africa and South

America.

"In many countries, animals are the lifeblood of the people," said Crawinkle. Keeping their animals healthy becomes a ministry and in-road for the gospel to entire families.

Because obtaining veterinary supplies in third world countries is both difficult and expensive, Crawinkle and others serve as couriers for donated supplies when they visit a country. He took seven 70-pound boxes of supplies when he visited Mali, West Africa.

"If we did nothing else but be couriers, the work would be worth it," said Crawinkle. "Missionaries couldn't afford to buy these supplies in their countries. We can get them donated."

Hi,
My name is Timothy Parker. I am 12 years old. I go to church at Pittsboro Baptist Church. My hobbies are swimming, camping, and reading. I play basketball. I would like for a boy or girl to write me.

Your friend,
Timothy

P.S. My address is: Timothy Parker, Rt. 2, Box 230B, Bruce, MS 38915.

Hi!
My name is Kim Sobley. I attend Friendship Baptist Church in Columbus, Ms. I'm 12½ years old and going to the seventh grade at Hunt Jr. High. My hobbies are swimming, boating, playing the piano, and riding our jet ski.

I would like a boy or girl to be my pen pal from the ages 12-16.

Here's my address: Kim Sobley, 30 Concourse Rd., Columbus, MS 39702.

Your friend,
Kim

P.S. I'll write back.

Hi!
My name is Carrie Henley and I'm 12 years old. I attend First Baptist Church of Florence and go to Florence Middle School. My hobbies are riding horses, cheerleading, playing basketball, and swimming. I would like for a girl or boy to write to me. Please send a picture!

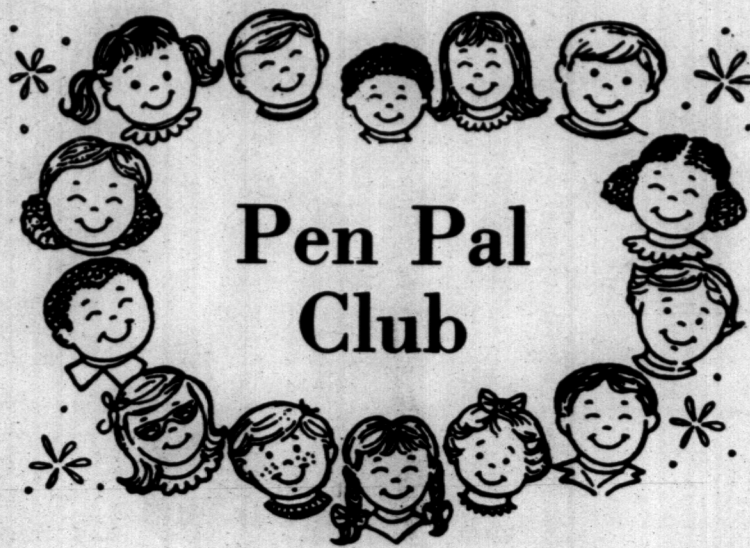
Love,
Carrie

My address is: 301 W. Dewey Camp Dr., Florence, MS 39073.

Hi,
My name is Travis Carver. I am 10 years old. Some of my hobbies are swimming, playing baseball, and collecting baseball cards. I would really like to have a pen pal.

Travis Carver
211 43 St.

Gulfport, Mississippi 39501



Pen Pal Club

Hi,
My name is Kimberly Knight. I attend Union Hall Baptist Church. I go to Lipsey Middle School. I am 11 years of age and I'm in the sixth grade. Some of my hobbies are: reading, singing, dancing, riding my bike, and talking on the telephone. I would like a boy or a girl to be my pen pal. Please send a picture of yourself.

Your Friend,
Kimberly

My address is: Kimberly Knight, Rt. 1, Box 394, Brookhaven, MS 39601.

Hi!
My name is Candace Carpenter. I live in Coffeeville. I go to First Baptist Church in Coffeeville. My hobbies are reading, riding my bicycle, playing with friends, and playing with my baby kitten. I am eight years old. I will be in the third grade next year. Please write!

Love,
Candace Carpenter
Rt. 3, Box 268A
Coffeeville, MS 38922

Hi,
My name is Brandy Griffin. I am 11 years old. I will be 12 years old in November. I will be in sixth grade when school starts back.

I would like to have a pen pal — a boy or girl. I belong to Parkway Baptist Church in Houston, Mississippi.

With Love,
Brandy Nicole Griffin

My address is: 103 Lowery St., Houston, MS 38851, Phone (601) 456-2926.

Hi!
My name is Tasha Coghlan. I live in McComb, Mississippi. I attend South McComb Baptist Church in McComb, Mississippi. I like to swim, cross stitch, draw, and read books. This summer I will be staying at my grandma's house in Magnolia, Mississippi. I would like a girl or boy to write to me. I would like a picture if you have one.

Love, Tasha
My address is:
Rt. 3, Box 62
Magnolia, Mississippi 39652

Hi,
My name is Bradley Crouch. I am eight years old. I will be in the third grade this year at Lawhan school. I like swimming and baseball. I would like to have a pen pal to write to me. I attend New Hope Baptist Church.

Love,
Bradley Crouch
603 Herring Circle
Tupelo, Miss. 38801

Hey!
My name is Lindsey Spencer. I am 9½. My birthday is Dec. 16. I am going to be in fourth grade next year. I go to East Webster Elementary School in Mathiston. I go to church at Cross Roads Baptist Church close to Mantee. My hobbies are going to church, swimming, riding horses, skating, playing, reading, singing, and writing. I would like a Christian girl or boy to write me. If possible please give a picture in your third, second, or first letter. My address is Rt. 2, Box 552, Maben Ms. 39750.

Love,
Lindsey Spencer

P.S. Please write me. I need a pen pal. I like to play baseball, badminton, football and basketball, and more!

Hi! My name is Alicia. I will be 13 on July 31. I go to home school. I will be in the eighth grade when school starts. I go to Unity Baptist Church. I live in the country, and I have a collie named Thumper and four cats. I like to ride my bike, watch T.V., sing, listen to music, and draw.

I would like to hear from girls and boys. I will answer all letters. Please send a picture if you have one.

Alicia Cessna
Rt. 2, Box 9
Pattison, MS 39144

Hi!
My name is Steven Reeves. I'm 9½ years old. I will be attending a church soon. I just got out of the third grade. My hobbies are swimming, fishing, and playing basketball. I live in Shannon.

My address is Rt. 1, Box 37X, Shannon, MS 38868.

P.S. I would like for some one to write to me boy or girl.

Hi!
My name is Stephanie Boyte. I am 12½ years old. I attend Friendship Baptist Church. My hobbies are swimming, playing basketball and softball, riding my bike, playing the piano and reading a book. I will be in seventh grade next year at Love Star School. I would really like a boy or girl to write me.

Love in Christ,
Stephanie Boyte
Rt. 7, Box 342
Brookhaven, MS 39601

P.S. Please send me a picture.

Hey!
My name is Sarah. I'll be 11 in August. I'll be in the sixth grade next year. I go to East Webster school in Mathiston. I go to Cross Roads Baptist Church in Mantee. My hobbies are: reading, drawing, skate, swim, and much more! I would love to have a Christian boy or girl to write me! Send a picture if possible!

Love in Christ,
Sarah Spencer

P.S. My address is Rt. 2, Box 552, Maben, MS 39750.

LETTERS FROM CAREY - Honors and Academic Programs

By Dr. Bennie Crockett, Associate Dean of the College

July 18, 1991

"Always be ready for a defense to anyone who asks for a reason for the hope that is within you."

1 Peter 3:15b

The word that appears as "defense" in 1 Peter 3:15b actually could be translated as "apology," yielding possibly the earliest reference to the early Christians' defense of the faith. Historically, a defense of the faith has been referred to as apologetics. While in contemporary English usage, "apology" typically implies an element of regret or sorrow, the classical and historical usage of "apology" has implied "reasonable defense." The early Christians believed that a defensible faith was an absolute necessity for their success in Roman culture.

THE CULTURE'S CHALLENGE

William Carey College and other denominationally based institutions are serving an apologetic interest for their constituents by providing students a Christian context for

intellectual development, which produces an ability to analyze and critique the diverse worldviews that are part of contemporary Western life. This purposeful intellectual development is unique to Christian institutions of higher education. Students at William Carey College are challenged not only to master post-secondary information but to relate their Christian worldview to that information and the predominant non-Christian world in which we live.

A historic precedent for an apologetic interest of Christian colleges and universities dates to the founding of numerous colleges and universities, including Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and Brown. The proliferation of church sponsored colleges in the American colonies and after the United States' founding has demonstrated the Christian college's role in American society as a center of intellectual achievement from the perspective of a

reasonable Christian worldview. Not only does historical precedent support Christian colleges as institutions offering a reasonable Christian worldview, but the contemporary era with its intense intellectual and religious pluralism demands that Christian colleges meet the intellectual challenge of contextualizing the Christian message within contemporary culture—apologetics.

CAREY'S RESPONSE

One way that William Carey College is meeting the intellectual and educational challenges of the 1990s is through its liberal arts based core curriculum. All students who graduate from Carey must demonstrate oral and literary proficiency in the use of the English language and mathematics, an absolute necessity for competitive entrance into the job market or successful application to graduate education. In addition to linguistic and mathematical proficiency, Carey is conserving Western

intellectual distinctives by requiring its students to be introduced to the great literatures, histories, arts, philosophies, and sciences of our Western and American culture. Unique to William Carey, and other like institutions, is the requirement that all students complete introductory studies in biblical history and literature.

A second way that William Carey College is meeting the intellectual and educational challenges of the 1990s is through its Honors Program. For students who have demonstrated high achievement on standardized tests or in a previous college experience, William Carey offers seminar format courses in which faculty members involve themselves with students in analyzing some of the great books of the Western world. Honors students are afforded opportunity to contrast their personal intellectual development with the time-tested literary sources of the Western and Christian

heritage. Furthermore, honors students have the opportunity to complete a bachelor's level honors thesis in their major field of academic study under the supervision of an academic tutor. As honors students are stimulated to stretch their intellectual horizons, they do this within the context of personal interaction with other honors students and caring faculty members.

William Carey College offers all of its students the opportunity to adapt their understanding of the world in light of the exponential advance of knowledge in the modern world. In their adaptation to the advances made in science, mathematics, and literary achievement, students learn to adjust their Christian values to meet the needs, both intellectual and religious, of the contemporary pluralistic culture—a reasonable Christian apologetic.

(P.S. Next Week - Carey on the Coast)

Thursday, July 18, 1991

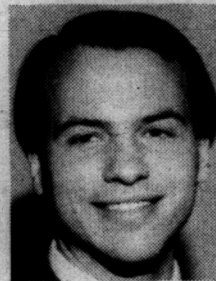
172 youths make decisions at Gulfshore

The seven youth conferences this summer at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly resulted in 172 decisions, varying from 55 professions of faith to 93 rededications to 24 commitments to full-time Christian vocation. Pictured are participants in one of the conferences. Top left, the youth of First Church, Coffeeville, display their new tee-shirts. In color they're beautiful. Top right, Eddie Thompson of Fort Worth, Tex., leads the music with the help of some of the youth. Bottom left, young people embrace one another during a decision time. It is during youth conferences at Gulfshore that many young people come to grips with what they want to do with their Christian faith. Bottom right, James Lewis, pastor of 15th Avenue Church, Meridian, was one of the youth conference preachers. His animated presentations of the gospel message hit responsive chords in the audience. On one message he talked about "the road to fizzling out," referring jointly to a young person's life and the battle of Ai in the book of Joshua. That road, he said is paved with overconfidence, oversight, an overcast of sin, and overlooking the real problems. "Sin," he said, "makes promises it can't deliver on." (Photos by Tim Nicholas)



Board approves Ball as director, Pearl River BSU

Michael Warren Ball has been approved as the new Baptist Student Union director at Pearl River Community College, Poplarville. He is a graduate of Mississippi State University and Southwestern Seminary. Previously he served as BSU director at San Antonio College and Palo Alto College in San Antonio, Texas.



Ball

Ball was chosen for the MSU Hall of Fame, was a member of the BSU ensemble "Fishermen" in 1982-85, and received several scholarships at MSU. He is married to the former Carol Brenner, and his daughter, Elizabeth.



Mr. and Mrs. Burrell

Burrells honored

Mr. and Mrs. James Burrell of Indianola were honored on June 8 by their four daughters on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. One of their daughters, Jimmy Ornburn, has served with the Home Mission Board.

Burrell was a pastor in the Central Delta area until his retirement six years ago. Since his retirement he has served several churches as interim pastor. He started churches in Humphreys County (Liberty, Bethel, Beulah, and Eastside). He assisted in starting more (Calvary, New Hope, Central, and Waco).

At his retirement the Burrells built a home in Indianola. They are members of First Church, Indianola.

The testimony of his life to young preachers is summed up in one statement that he has made in public many times (he was unable to receive formal training as a pastor). He said when the Lord called him to preach as a young man, whenever there was a church meeting or a meeting where preachers would be in attendance, he would go and stand around and listen to the old preachers talk. He learned ministerial ethics and protocol by just listening to pastors talk.

God's work begins with me

By Larry Otis

Those of us who are not ordained, understand the expression of "called." We have seen many young people respond in our churches to the call of God for them to serve in full-time Christian service. We understand and accept it because it does not involve us as we sit in the pews. We speak in glowing terms of the great undertaking that they have been "called" to serve.

Many church members receive a call also, a "call to salvation and repentance." That young man who has been called to the ministry received an earlier call, just as all laypeople, a call to salvation and repentance.

Many of us do not respond to the full call when we are saved by God's grace and love. That is a call to serve as a minister, a priest as it were. II Corinthians 5:17-19 tells us that: "and hath given us the ministry of reconciliation." The "us" are those "in Christ."

I Peter 2:9 tells us, "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people," — Peter is speaking to all church members with no distinction between laity and clergy.

We as church members must shoulder our part of the ministry of the church. We often depend totally upon the pastor and staff to "do the work of the church," and if they can't do the work, we'll hire more people. This is not what God called us to do as Christians, ministers, and servants.

Our pastors are called of God to a special task of leading us, equipping us, and sending us out to do the work of God, TOGETHER.

We as church members should follow the leadership of our God-called pastors and staff, pray for them, work with them, and win people to God together. If the work is not being done, then we must look first at our own lives and actions as ministers, before we start to condemn and criticize our pastor and staff.

God's work begins with me, with you, and with all Christians desiring to work together for his kingdom and glory.

Otis is a Tupelo layman.

HMB forms crusade task force

ATLANTA (BP) — A crusade evangelist task force has been formed to develop a strategy to plan and implement area-wide and city-wide crusades.

Initiated by the Home Mission Board evangelism section, the task force will encourage quality crusade leadership, cooperative training, and the use of crusade evangelists. Long-term goals include developing materials for conducting effective and affordable multi-church crusades.

Members of the volunteer task force are Richard H. Harris and Tom McEachin of the HMB Mass Evangelism Department and full-time evangelists Kelly Green of Mobile, Ala., Paul Jackson of Little Rock, Ark., Jerry Johnston of Overland Park, Kan., Rick Stanley of

Fort Walton Beach, Fla., Jay Strack of Dallas, and Jim Wilson of Orlando, Fla.

Discipleship is another concern of the task force. The group will help churches "conduct crusades which lead individuals to profess their faith in Christ and obediently express their commitment in believers' baptism and meaningful church membership," Green said.

In addition, the task force will act as an accountability group for its members about their moral, ethical, personal evangelistic, financial, devotional, and family life.

"This accountability will be in the context of biblical standards for the office and for the calling of the evangelist," said Jay Strack.

capsules

NOT AIRING POPE'S MESSAGE BRINGS CHARGES: PERNAMBUCO, Brazil — Radio Maranata, an evangelical radio station in northern Brazil, has been charged with breaking the law for refusing to air a "brotherhood" message from Pope John Paul II. The case has attracted national attention, raising questions about whether the charges violate religious liberty guaranteed under the Brazilian constitution. DENTEL, the federal organization that filed the charges, has threatened to withdraw the station's license. But evangelicals put it this way: "If the state doesn't have an official religion, how can an organ of the government force Maranata to transmit something that doesn't please our 250,000 evangelical listeners?" One state representative agreed: "It's absurd that an evangelical radio station be forced to concede 13 minutes to the pope. This is a violation against all religions in Brazil." A Roman Catholic priest argued that "in the name of ecumenicism the pope was talking to people of all faiths. His message was brotherhood and Radio Maranata hasn't contributed to the cause of God in the world" by not broadcasting the speech. Evangelicals awaiting the government's decision believe it could have far-reaching implications for evangelicals in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation.

PAKISTAN SAYS ISLAM RULES: ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — The parliament of Pakistan has declared the Koran of Islam the supreme law of the land. The new law was heatedly opposed by non-Muslim religious groups, liberals, academics, and many women and moderate Muslims. They fear they will lose some of their rights and freedoms under the rule of the sharia (Islamic law). A political science professor at Punjab University charged that passage of the law was the only route to power for Muslim fundamentalist parties, which have been rejected at the polls even though Pakistan's 110 million people are overwhelmingly Muslim.

ROMANIAN BAPTISTS DENOUNCE PORN, ABORTION: BUCHAREST, Romania — At their May congress, Romanian Baptists called on the national parliament to outlaw abortion and pornography. Baptists "are deeply grieved upon learning that since the revolution of 1989 until today 2 million children have been murdered in their mothers' wombs through abortions accomplished in the state hospitals and clinics," the abortion resolution declared. Abortion "will destroy the future of our nation, will jeopardize our women's health, and especially the nation's conscience is burdened with an awful guilt." The pornography resolution stated that while Baptists support freedom of the press and of expression, pornography could "poison the emotions and destroy the morality of the youth of Romania." Baptists also called on the United States Congress and President Bush to restore most-favored-nation trade status to Romania.

20,000 IRAQI CHRISTIANS KILLED: BONN, Germany — Saddam Hussein's government has killed more than 20,000 Christians in Iraq, charged the German-based Society for Threatened Peoples. Since 1968 the Iraqi regime has persecuted Assyrian Christians, the society reported, including the use of chemical weapon attacks on Assyrian communities. The regime also has expelled 75,000 Assyrian Christians and destroyed nearly 100 churches, the report claimed.

== You don't work alone . . . we're right alongside you . . . and lo, He is with us always. ==

alongside



Thursday
July 18, 1991

This Issue of alongside is a Supplement to the BAPTIST RECORD, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board



SUMMER — A SPECIAL TIME!

by Marjean Patterson

The magnolia blossoms have ceased to appear on the tree which peeps its branches right up to my fourth floor window at the Baptist Building. The oppressive Mississippi heat has caught up with us once more and we say to each other, "If only it EVER gets cool, I'll never complain again." Only we will. Complaining about the weather seems to be a characteristic which absorbs our time and attention year-round.

Now that the middle of summer is here, I like to think that there's no doubt about it—those "lazy, hazy, crazy" days of summer are very special to Mississippi folk. We associate summer with such important matters as watermelon parties and cookouts; swimming and taking vacations; Vacation Bible School and getting the kids' teeth fixed.

In spite of the newspaper advertisements which urge us to do our back-to-school shopping as soon as we've celebrated the July 4th holiday, there's still a lot of summertime left.

For instance, have you had a recognition service for GAs and Acteens who have been working on their individual achievement plans? What about a picnic for six-year-old girls who will become GA members this fall—to help them know what GA will be like?

Could Baptist Women begin a Big A Club in the community? Or teach someone to read? Or minister to an international student or family? What about double checking now to be sure that all church WMU leaders are in place for 1991-92? Are you saying, "We have a lot of places to be filled?" If so, right now—not the end of September—is that SPECIAL time to enlist leaders.

What about loading up some of your folk and taking a tour of YOUR Baptist Building? And other Baptist locations in the Jackson area—such as the Children's Village, Mississippi College, Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, and Camp Garaywa?

Right now is the time for all of us to get our mental wheels turning in the missions mode of thinking. Then we'll be ready to start the fall quarter under a full head of steam. More power to you!



Two New State WMU Officers Join President Joan Tyler

Joan Tyler of Collins was elected to a third one-year term as president of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union at the Annual Meeting in March.

Joan (right) has been a member of the WMU Executive Board for several years, serving as vice president, 1978-82. Currently she is Mission Action/ Personal Witnessing director for Covington Association WMU. Joan has served as member-at-large of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, a member of the Executive Committee of the Board, and vice president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Joan and her husband Charles, a family physician, are members of Collins Baptist Church. They have two children and three granddaughters.

Two new officers chosen to serve are: Betty Dobbs (center), Clinton, vice president, and Vivian Taylor (left), Clara, secretary.

Betty and her husband Eugene moved to Clinton in January when he became administrative Assistant for Ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Prior to that, Eugene was pastor of First Baptist Church, Philadelphia.

Betty served on the WMU Executive Board as Coordinator of Area 6. Last year she was Baptist Women director in Neshoba Association WMU. Her hobbies include sewing, crocheting, deer hunting and amateur radio. She holds Extra Class Amateur Radio license and is active in local radio club, Mississippi Baptist Hams Fellowship and in communications for overseas missionaries.

Betty and Gene have two daughters and two granddaughters.

Vivian Taylor and her husband Jerry live in Clara, where he is a supervisor with Hood Industries in Waynesboro. Jerry returned home May 1 after serving five months with his National Guard unit in Desert Storm. During that time, Vivian was active in the family support group for the unit.

Vivian has served in several capacities in Woman's Missionary Union—in her church, in the association and on the state WMU Executive Board. She has led WMU conferences, as well as Sunday School conferences, in state-wide meetings.

Reading, traveling, and growing flowers and plants are among Vivian's hobbies. She works part-time as secretary in the Wayne Baptist Association office and is currently serving as president of Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Association.

Emily Dossett Chosen National Acteen Panelist

Each year dozens of Acteens make application to WMU, SBC, to serve as National Acteen Panelists. From these applications, a committee narrows the selection to 25 Acteens. From that number, six are chosen as Panelists; the other 19 are designated Top Teens.

Mississippi can boast one Acteen Panelist and two Top Teens this year. Becky O'Nan, Adaton Baptist Church,

Starkville, and Suzannah White, First Baptist, Jackson, are the Top Teens.

Emily Dossett, First Baptist Church, Jackson, was chosen National Acteen Panelist. Emily and the Top Teens were selected on their church and Acteen participation, level in Stuidact, school academic level, as well as school activities and leadership.

Emily's first big responsibility was to serve as a page at the Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, Annual Meeting, and the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta in June. During her year of service,

Continued on back page of alongside



Emily Dossett

Your Ticket for Training in 1991-92

WMU CHURCH LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Five one-day sessions at Camp Garaywa!

August 13-17
9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
(cost: \$4.50 for lunch)

Two night sessions at Camp Garaywa!

August 12 and 13
6:30- 9:00 p.m.

Day and night sessions at other locations!

Hattiesburg, FBC, August 19 and 20
6:30-9:00 p.m./9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Tupelo, FBC, August 19 and 20
6:30-9:00 p.m./9:30 a.m.-2:30

CONFERENCES FOR EVERYONE!

•Mission Friends Leaders
•GA Leaders •Acteen Leaders •Baptist Women Officers
•BYW Officers •WMU officers

Baptist Nursing Fellowship Retreat

September 20-21
Camp Garaywa, Clinton

Supper, 6:00—lunch Saturday

Cost: \$21 per person
please remember . . .
bring linens and towels



She's Coming!

Myrtice Owens . . . that wonderful missionary nurse is on furlough from Namibia, SW Africa . . . the one you've been sending the children's chewable vitamins!

And . . . Delores York, Rio Grande River Ministries Coordinator
They're coming, too . . . BNF nurses just back from volunteer missions involvement through the Foreign Mission Board . . .

Kaye Wilson . . . refugee camps in Iraq
Marsha Eaves . . . medical team to Honduras
Shirley Chapman . . . lay witness team to Australia

plus . . . installation of new BNF officers by Debbie Smith, national BNF president-elect

And we hope you're coming too!

To register, send the following information to WMU Office, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205: name of conference; date of meeting; name, address, and telephone of person registering; amount enclosed (\$21 per person). Make checks payable to: Woman's Missionary Union.

CONTACT It's Worth It!

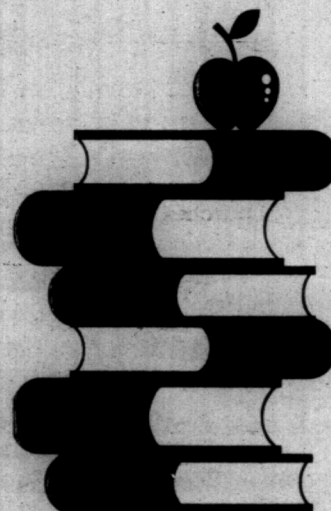
*Praise. Bible Study. Prayer. Personal reflection.
Observation of the world and its needs.
A plan of action. It's all in CONTACT*

A 12-week study with material for the individual on a daily basis and a weekly group session that asks members to do something with their faith—that's CONTACT.

Order CONTACT materials from Baptist Book Stores. A learner's notebook, facilitator's guide, and cassette tape are also available. CONTACT is a joint Brotherhood WMU spiritual growth project. Persons completing CONTACT may receive a CONTACT diploma through Church Study Course.

LEARN HOW TO TEACH SOMEONE TO READ!

15-hour Literacy Workshop
Camp Garaywa
August 15 and 16



TEACHER: Juanita Schilling
Workshop begins at 9 a.m. on the 15th and concludes at 2:30 p.m. on the 16th. Participation is by pre-registration only. Deadline is August 1.

COST: \$50 (registration, books, meals, lodging) (This is a special track offered during WMU Church Leadership Training)

A Look Ahead

August

- 12 Church Leader Training, Camp Garaywa, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
- 13 Church Leader Training, Camp Garaywa, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.; 6:30-9:00 p.m.
- 14 Church Leader Training, Camp Garaywa, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- 15 Church Leader Training, Camp Garaywa, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- 16 Church Leader Training, Camp Garaywa, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- 17 Church Leader Training, Camp Garaywa, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- 19 Church Leader Training, FBC, Tupelo, FBC, Hattiesburg, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
- 20 Church Leader Training, FBC, Tupelo, FBC, Hattiesburg, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

September

- 8-12 State Missions Season of Prayer and Margaret Lackey Offering
- 20-21 GA and One Adult Overnight, Garaywa, Friday, 5 p.m.- Saturday, 1 p.m.

October

- 5 Church Leadership Training, Oakhurst, Clarksdale; FBC, Oxford; FBC, Booneville, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 12 Church Leadership Training, FBC, McComb; Main Street, Hattiesburg; FBC, Gulfport, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 19 Church Leadership Training, FBC, Vicksburg; Crossgates, Brandon; FBC, Meridian, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 26 Church Leadership Training, FBC, Greenville; North Winona and FBC, Winona; FBC, Starkville, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

MISSISSIPPI MISSIONS VOLUNTEERS

"The blessings that come to volunteers can only be known by volunteers." That's what Lou Hayes of Biloxi said after two weeks in Zimbabwe in April. She and Linda Donnell from Hattiesburg assisted missionaries during their annual mission meeting. Lou taught five-year-old MKs in Vacation Bible School while their parents were in the mission meeting. Linda supervised food preparation for 120 missionaries and families. She also taught personal growth seminars for missionary wives.

Lou says, "The most spiritual experience of my time there was being in the home of John and Flo Griggs for Bible study. Nationals, Europeans and Americans were all on the same level spiritually, studying and worshipping and praying to the same God. This was our first night and we hadn't been to bed for two nights, but as the Spirit moved in such a powerful way, all was forgotten except the presence of the Lord."

When Mary and Max Ball of Sumrall heard Mildred McWhorter speak at the WMU Annual Meeting in Jackson in March, they decided to help in her inner city ministry in Houston, Texas. So, before they left the meeting, they signed up to go to Houston in May.

Max, a retired electrician, spent his time repairing air conditioners in the four mission centers. Mary had various responsibilities—from cooking for the 35 volunteers at the centers, to helping sort clothes and shoes, helping with children's activities, Bible studies, crafts for the women, and recreational activities.

Mary and Max also assisted with bread and donut pickups and deliveries. At the end of each day, they went to bread stores for left-over bread and donuts which the stores donated to the centers. They delivered the goods to the four centers; if there was any left, they went into the neighborhoods and offered it to the people.

Mary says, "Our eleven days in Houston were busy and rewarding. We were so impressed with the great work that Mildred McWhorter is doing and we are thankful we could have a part in it."

A week-long project at the Choctaw reservation in Neshoba Association brought together sixteen volunteers from Mississippi (including several from Neshoba Association)

and six volunteers from Illinois. The group led Backyard Bible Clubs at homes in four communities during the mornings; taught sewing, children's choir leadership, and did blood pressure screening in the afternoons; and conducted Vacation Bible School in two churches at night.

Baptist Women in Neshoba Association hosted the volunteers in their homes and provided evening meals. Barbara Fulton, WMU Director for Neshoba Association, coordinated housing and meals. Lee Bacon, director of missions, coordinated the entire project.

Other volunteer mission projects will be conducted later this summer. See "Prayer Alert" for dates, places and participants.



Linda Donnell in front of grass hut in Zimbabwe. About 60% of the people in Zimbabwe live in this type house.

PRAYER ALERT . . .

Be praying for these two volunteer mission projects and the women who will be on the teams:

UPTOWN BAPTIST CHURCH, CHICAGO - July 27-August 3

Backyard Bible Clubs
Meals for street people
Ministries to women, staff, elderly

Team Members:

Joan Tyler, Collins
Flossie Lee, Collins
Jo Ingram, Meadville
Opal Graves, Meadville
Bobbie Foster, Prentiss

EAST ST. LOUIS, August 15-17

Back-to-school event
Clothes distribution
School supplies distribution

Team Members:

Beth Bell, McCool
L. K. Spivey, Jackson
Gloria Stanford, Jackson
Judy Clark, Lauderdale
Rose Harris, Mantee

Plan
Now To
Attend!

THE SOUTH REGIONAL EVENT

for

Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women
Gulfshore Baptist Assembly
November 1-2

Plan
Now To
Attend!

Theme: "Called to Respond"

GUEST SPEAKERS: Laura Fry Allen, Centerville, GA; Alma Hunt, Roanoke, VA;
James and Dottie Gilbert, furloughing missionaries, Panama
TESTIMONY and SPECIAL MUSIC: Lisa Leavell, Jackson

Check in time begins: 2 p.m., supper 6 p.m.; retreat ends with lunch Saturday.

Registration forms are available from your associational WMU director and from the state WMU office.

Plan now to bring a car, van or bus filled with Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women for a time of challenge and inspiration!

Summer Camp 1991

The GA Summer Camping program is in full swing with capacity registration each week. Campers are being guided by college and seminary students and our missionaries in choice making. The theme for this summer is "Choosing to . . ." Campers are considering the many choices they have to make and being encouraged to make the best choice.

Camp leaders for this summer include students from 13 Mississippi colleges and universities and two of our seminaries.

Program leaders are Nieca Bryant from Belden, Susy Parkerson from Pearl and Rea Trim from Jackson. Holly Guarr from Water Valley is manager of the swimming pool and Ann McCoy of Jackson manages the Trading Post.



Counselors are:

Tiffany Allen, Calhoun City
Carmen Breland, Leakesville
Larinda Brown, Fulton
Kim Cagle, Kosciusko
Jennifer Colburn, Amory
Lydia Edwards, Petal
Kim Ethridge, Hattiesburg
Amy Harris, Vicksburg
Charlotte Hilderbrand, Benton
Amanda Hunter, Eupora
Greta Huggins, Waynesboro
Suzan Joblin, Columbus
Terri Manning, Batesville
Shawn Murphy, Petal
Kim Paes, Magee
Rhoda Patterson, Wesson
Colbey Penton, Picayune
Tawanna Posey, Brookhaven
Karen Sisk, Shannon
Christy Swindall, Huntsville, AL
Jan Taylor, Laurel
Karen Tullos, Columbia
Holly Walton, Manila, AR
Tonya Williams, Clinton
Chantal Young, Southaven

HERE'S BIG NEWS!



Nedra Carter

GA Grandmother/Granddaughter Overnight, September 20-21, has been opened to all GAs and a special adult in her life. This could be grandmother, mother, aunt, church leader or special friend.

Camp Garaywa, Clinton, is the place, and registration begins at 5 p.m. Friday. Activities conclude with lunch on Saturday.

Among the special guests will be Nedra Carter, missionary to Argentina, and Paula Stringer, children's director at Broadmoor Church in Jackson.

Cost is \$21 per person. Participants should bring linens, towels, casual clothes, Bible, September Discovery.

To register, send the following information, with \$21 per person, to WMU office, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205: GA's name and school grade; adult's name; name of church and association; name, address, and telephone number for person sending reservation. Make checks payable to Woman's Missionary Union.

SPECIAL TRAINING MEETINGS IN OCTOBER OFFER CONVENIENCE AND VARIETY

A series of special training meetings each Saturday in October have been scheduled with convenience in mind. During the month, personnel from Mississippi Baptist Convention Board departments, including the WMU department, will be in twelve locations across the state to lead conferences for church leadership.

Conferences begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 3 p.m. Dates and locations are:

OCTOBER 5: Oakhurst Baptist Church, Clarksdale
First Baptist Church, Oxford
First Baptist Church, Booneville

OCTOBER 12: First Baptist Church, McComb
Main Street Baptist Church, Hattiesburg
First Baptist Church, Gulfport

OCTOBER 19: First Baptist Church, Vicksburg
Crossgates Baptist Church, Brandon
First Baptist Church, Meridian

OCTOBER 26: First Baptist Church, Greenville
First Baptist Church and North Winona Baptist Church, Winona
First Baptist Church, Starkville

WMU conferences on these Saturdays are for all church WMU leaders and will include the teaching of *Called and Accountable*, the WMU emphasis book for 1991-92, and hands-on learning at individual learning stations. These stations will feature new products and the age-level organizations.

Choose the session nearest you and come for a good day of training!

Acteens Panel Continued from p.1 alongside

she will also write articles for ACCENT magazine and will speak at various Acteen events in the state.

Of her service as page at the WMU Annual Meeting and Southern Baptist Convention, Emily says, "It was great—the most wonderful week of my life. The other panelists and I became very close. I heard some wonderful missionaries, and Dr. Keith Parks, from the Foreign Mission Board, speak at the WMU Meeting. It was great to hear President Bush speak at the Southern Baptist Convention."

Immediately after the week at the two conventions, Emily, along with Suzannah White, went to Houston Texas, to work in the inner city ministry of Mildred McWhorter. Emily says, "I was one of 55 'critters'—ten high school Sojourners and 45 college student summer missionaries."

For five weeks, Emily worked in the Fletcher Center, distributing food and clothes, leading activities for preschoolers and children, and playing the piano for worship services.

This fall, Emily will return to St. Andrews School, where she will be a senior. She will also resume one of her favorite mission projects—teaching a weekly art class for children at Crestwood Mission Center in Jackson. Emily began the class two years ago and usually has about ten children in the class. Along with arts and crafts, Emily teaches a Bible story each week. Several children in the class have made professions of faith.

Two years ago Emily made public her calling to be a foreign missionary. But she isn't waiting until she goes to a foreign country to be a missionary—she is a missionary now!



ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS TRAINING

For Associational WMU Officers

August 24, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., FBC, Oxford

August 26, 5:45-9:15 p.m., FBC, Brandon

August 27, 5:45-9:15 p.m., FBC, Winona

August 29, 5:45-9:15 p.m., FBC, Columbia

Training Opportunities

- A conference on Growth Strategies
- Conferences for each age-level director
- Associational officers notebooks for those attending

Nominate a Member-at-Large

For the past three years the Mississippi WMU Executive Board has been composed of general officers, area leaders, and some members-at-large.

The term of service for members-at-large is either two or three years. Responsibilities for all members of the WMU Executive Board included serving on a Board committee and participating in semi-annual Executive Board meetings.

Forms on which to nominate a woman to be a member-at-large are available from the WMU office, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Deadline for nominations is November 1.

alongside

published by Mississippi WMU Department

Marjean Pattersonexecutive director-treasurer
Monica KeathleyWMU consultant
Ashley McCalebBaptist Women consultant
Jan CossittBYW/Acteens consultant
Patricia SimmonsGA/MF consultant
Fran Pickettcamp manager
Sandy Blacksecretary
Brenda Quattlebaumsecretary
Betty Smitheditor

New Orleans adds four to faculty

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — New Orleans Seminary trustees recently elected four new faculty members.

Thomas S. Roote Jr., former executive director of the Greater New Orleans Federation of Churches, is associate professor of church administration in the division of Christian education ministries. A native of Covington, Tenn., Roote holds master's and doctorate degrees in education from New Orleans Seminary, and a bachelor's from Mercer University. He has been a leader in Baptist associations in Georgia, Florida, and Alabama; and a professor at Baptist Bible Institute.

Charles A. Ray Jr., former foreign missionary and professor of New Testament and Greek at the Baptist Seminary in Taejon, South Korea, is associate professor of New Testament and Greek, division of biblical studies. A native of New Orleans, Ray holds master's and doctorate degrees from New Orleans Seminary, and bachelor's and master's degrees from Mississippi College. Prior to his missionary service, he was pastor of Pleasant Hill Baptist Church in Pine Grove, La.

Sidney L. Buckley, former minister of music at Washington Avenue Baptist Church in Greenville, S.C., is associate professor of voice in the division of church music ministries. A native of Columbia, Miss., Buckley holds a doctorate degree from Florida State University, a master's from New Orleans Seminary, and a bachelor's from William Carey College, all in music. He has taught voice at Florida State University and Furman University, and was head of the music department of Central Wesleyan College.

Effective Aug. 1, Paula A. Stringer, director of child development at Broadmoor Baptist Church in Jackson, Miss., will be assistant professor of early childhood education in the division of Christian education ministries. A native of Montgomery, Ala., Stringer holds master's and doctorate degrees in education from the University of Southern Mississippi, and a bachelor's from Mississippi College. She has taught classes in early childhood at USM, and was an assistant professor of elementary education at MC.

Taylor accepts nursing post at Wm. Carey

William Carey College has announced that Janet Taylor has been appointed campus coordinator for the Division of Nursing's Hattiesburg nursing program.

Taylor, who earned her BSN degree from William Carey and her MSN from the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, is a resident of Laurel. She will receive her Doctor of Science in Nursing degree this summer from the University of Alabama in Birmingham.

She taught nursing at the University of Southern Mississippi, 1986-89. From 1989 through 1991 she was the coordinator of the USM program in Meridian.

She is married to Joe Taylor, vice president of South Central Regional Medical Center in Laurel. They are members of Plainway Baptist Church in Laurel, where Janet is church organist.



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



The Abacos' three speeds:

"Slow, stop, and reverse"

Imagine an hour in a hammock under supple palms, a light breeze stroking your sun-kissed body, a crystal green sea not 20 feet away sighing along the edge of the sand. If it's relaxing you want to do, it wouldn't be bad to live in the Abacos. Indeed, the islanders themselves are so relaxed, they say they only have three speeds, "slow, stop, and reverse."

Baja mar, Spanish for shallow sea, became anglicized as Bahama. Columbus discovered the Abacos and their outer cays, northernmost of the Bahamas in 1492. I discovered them three weeks ago.

Man-O-War Cay is a good example of unhurried island life. Imagine no cars! In the island's one village, practically all 850 people have the same surname, Albury, so they all call each other by first names. As I wandered up and down the streets, scarcely wider than a bicycle path, nothing passed me but a few motorbikes and golf carts (that's what they use for cars), and people on foot.

W. D. and I traveled 30 minutes to Man-O-War by way of a tender from the Majestic, which Premier Lines and Disney World advertise as "the big red boat." We had sailed from Port Canaveral the afternoon before; early that morning the ship had dropped anchor off Great Guana Cay. At 9 we

had left on the loaded tender, in spite of hovering clouds and an announcement that the trip to Green Turtle Cay had been cancelled. At Man-O-War, the tiny harbor was almost encircled by a narrow strip of land that reminded me of a miniature jungle.

Among flame trees, oleanders, and coconut palms, pastel-colored houses perched on hills, their shutters painted in vivid blues and corals. Down by the waterside, boat-builders sawed and hammered. From sailing schooners to small fishing dinghies, Alburys have built boats on Man-O-War for 150 years. In Albury's Sail Shop, I looked at caps and bags and jackets bearing the Man-O-War insignia. A scripture verse posted at the end of a display shelf reminded me of what I'd read:

"Churches are everywhere. Bahamians take religion seriously; the great majority attend church regularly, and it's said there are more churches per capita here than in any other nation . . . Maids in hotels are liable to leave an open Bible in your room."

As we stepped off the tender, a boatman handed each of us a long striped umbrella, even though the sun had come out. Given 20 minutes to investigate eight gift shops, I stood my umbrella in the corner of a restroom and promptly forgot it. While W.D.

paid for straw souvenirs I'd bought, he laid his umbrella on the counter. I, thinking it was mine, picked it up and walked onto the porch to wait for him.

He didn't know I had gotten his; neither did I. Another couple buying a souvenir had also laid their umbrella on the counter. W.D. picked theirs up, thinking it was his.

They said, "No, this is ours!" That made him furious, for he knew he had left his there. But he kept his cool — until he got outside to me, and the rains descended. I raised "my" umbrella and asked, "Where's yours?"

"That couple over there got it! Just let them keep it, if they want it that bad!" he hissed. My first thought was to confront the couple and tell them W.D. always tells the truth. But then another little thought entered my mind: "Why did my hands feel so refreshingly empty when I left the restroom?" and quickly another thought: "My umbrella is in there! I am holding W.D.'s."

"Here hold this," I told him and rushed back into the shop. Surely enough, my umbrella was where I'd left it. What havoc misunderstandings wreak.

"It's me you need to be mad at," I tried to say in the teeth of the wind.

Two umbrellas, or a half a dozen, were no good against that tropical out-

burst. Though the Bahamas are flattened tops of submerged mountains, Man-O-War is not flat. Water wrapped around us in sheets and streamed down the steep hillsides to the sea. We slopped along ankle deep in one stream, toward the shelter of a pavilion.

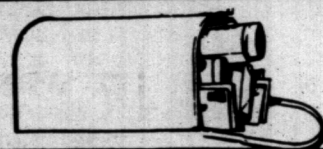
True, this was not a relaxing experience, but I had all of another day to soak in the sun and swing in a hammock.

Man-O-War allows no liquor and, like other islands in the little country, charges no income tax. They brag about having "no snow, no taxes, and no ulcers!"

Recently my pastor, Ken Alford, preached a sermon, "Don't Mess with Stress." The stress prevention prescription he gave is from Jesus' words in Matthew 11:28-30: "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

The good thing about this kind of peace is that you can always take it with you.

To the Abacos.
Or anywhere.



Letters to the editor

Impact society through education

Editor:

The delegates to the recent convention in Atlanta should be congratulated for approving the president's proposal to fund education by a voucher system. Congratulations are also in order for defunding the Baptist Joint Committee.

One area where the effects of a godless, Bibleless, and Christless education on people and society can be found is among our jail and prison population. I have ministered in this area for several years and have never encountered a person in jail that was a graduate of either of the two Protestant or Catholic grade schools in our area. We should expect this in view of Proverbs 22:6.

Conversely, a typical example of what society receives from a Bibleless school was a young man, who after accepting Christ and asking questions about the Bible, made the following statement, "I want to do something for God. Is it all right to rob banks as long as I give the money to the poor?" This young man knew about Robin Hood, but not about the Ten Commandments.

Where there are crimes committed there are also victims, more often than not, these are women and defenseless children. The surviving victims and families of victims are scarred for life.

This nation desperately needs the Bible and prayer brought back into our education system if any impact is to be made on the rising rate of violent crimes.

Kimble Hembree
Hattiesburg

"Parental choice in education"

Editor:

Since the mid-1960s I have been engaged in an ongoing debate with Roman Catholics before legislative committees and in the public forum. The National Conference of Catholic Bishops pushed for parental choice in education. At the same time they proposed numerous schemes or mechanisms for making the public treasury responsible for underwriting "choice," — as if parents would have no choice unless they could burden all taxpayers with the cost of church school parents' choice.

The Catholic bishops proposed some ways of channeling public money directly to parochial schools. When courts overruled such schemes as unconstitutional, the bishops proposed ways for the aid to go to parents who, in turn, could divert the money, chargeable to the public treasury, to church schools: Under "tuition reimbursement" parents would have paid tuition to the church school and then received reimbursement from the public treasury. Under the "voucher" mechanism, the government would give a voucher to the parent; the parent would use the voucher to pay tuition at the church school; the school would redeem the voucher at the public treasury. Under the "tax credit" scheme, the parent would pay tuition to the church school and then get it back as a dollar-for-dollar credit on his income tax bill. Under the scheme of tax deductible tuition, the parent would subtract the cost of tuition before computing his tax bill.

The bishops insisted that public aid under any of these schemes was to individual parents, not to church

schools. These schemes would have used parents (or their children) as conduits for indirectly channeling funds from the public treasury to church schools or education in them, or otherwise making the public treasury bear the financial burden of such education.

In the 1960s and 1970s Southern Baptists had no trouble recognizing the threat to church-state separation posed by the Catholic bishops and their ingenious ways of trying to get public aid for their schools or education in them.

Southern Baptists had no problem calling such schemes parochial aid or parochialism.

I have studied both the position of the SBC-CLC and the explicit language of the recent SBC resolution on "parental choice in education." It seems to me that both have bought the rationale of the Catholic bishops.

Should Southern Baptists turn their backs on two centuries of faithful, consistent witness to church-state separation and, for all practical purposes, become "Catholic Baptists" who want to saddle all taxpayers, directly or indirectly, with the costs of education in Baptist day schools?

I think that Southern Baptists should stand on the principle of church-state separation and resist the seductive appeal of public aid to church-related education. Government strings inevitably go with public money. In my opinion, church schools which value their freedom to make religion central to their character avoid public aid. Parents who choose church schools for their children should not ask all taxpayers to finance their choice, it seems to me.

G. Hugh Wamble
Professor of Church History
Midwestern Seminary

Loss of an angel . . .

Editor:

Over the last month hundreds of our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout Mississippi have been praying for an angel. I guess you are asking, "Why the need to pray for an angel?"

Well, God sent this angel as a tiny little baby, and gave her to two loving parents who thought they would have her for a lifetime.

God in all of his wisdom knew that a "lifetime" would only be 27 days. During those 27 days little Megan Wallace touched many lives. Megan was born with a heart defect, and hundreds of you prayed for her daily (James 5:14-15).

God answers all prayers, but not always like we want. God chose to heal Megan in the ultimate way. He gave her peace and health and a heavenly home (Jeremiah 33:6).

We praise God for his wisdom and undying love and know that he will always take charge over his children.

Tolbert and I want to thank each of you who prayed for Megan during her short time on earth, and we can all rest knowing that through the "loss of an angel," our little Megan, she was a witness to hundreds in building our faith in God.

Thank you all for your love and prayers.

Tolbert and Jackie Wallace
(Megan's Dad and Mom)
Pearl

No garden is a failure if your neighbor's chickens take first prize at the poultry show.

Library conferences to feature consultants for BSSB

Two conferences will be offered for church media librarians, July 25-27 at Gulfshore Assembly, Pass Christian. Anne Long will be leading conferees in learning skills in the area of administration. The conference will include techniques of time management, delegation of responsibilities, handling paperwork, working with other program areas and church staff, and planning for growth and services in the media library. Jack Lewis will be leading a conference in media skills. During the conference participants will discover content for

media skills training and develop a training calendar to support the church program as well as explore media skill building as a learning experience.

Both Anne Long and Jack Lewis are consultants with the Church Media Library Department of the Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tenn.

Reservations for this conference need to be made with the assembly. Contact Frank Simmons, manager, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, MS 39571 for reservations.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Salem Church, Leake County, kicked off its VBS June 2 with a preparation day. Attendees constructed a ten foot long banana split with ice cream donated by Luvel Dairy Products of Kosciusko.

First Church, Oxford, and North Oxford Church combined for a community-wide Vacation Bible School, June 3-7; 575 enrolled; 47 decisions made.

Carey to conduct pre-registration

William Carey College will conduct pre-registration for freshmen and transfer students on its Hattiesburg campus on July 25 from 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in Thomas Business Building.

Students in pre-nursing and nursing should report to the Office of Admissions at 8:30 a.m.

Lunch will be provided by William Carey for all participants.

For information on financial aid, transfer credit, or admission, call 582-5051 or 1-800-962-5991.

Staff changes

Stephen John Huber is the new pastor of First Church, Lambert. His former pastorates have included



Huber
ed to Lambert.

William L. Jagger has accepted the call as pastor of First Church, Philadelphia. Jagger, a Jackson native, was ordained to the ministry in 1981 by McDowell Road Church, Jackson. He received a BA degree from Mississippi College and master of divinity and Ph.D. degrees from Southwestern Seminary. Jagger was serving as pastor of Medulla Church of Lakeland, Fla.

Evergreen Church, Winston Association, has called Mrs. Sheri Kelly as music and youth director, effective June 23. Mrs. Kelly has served churches in Indiana and Mississippi as pre-school and youth choir director and youth coordinator.

Shane Price has accepted the call as minister of music and youth of Ingram Church, Baldwin (Prentiss Association).



Price
Tina McFalls.

Price served the South Corinth Church, Corinth, prior to going to Ingram. He has completed two years at Northeast Mississippi Community College, Booneville, and plans to continue his education, majoring in

Wallerville Church, Union County, has called Ray Burks as pastor. He goes to Wallerville Church from Oak Hill Church in Prentiss Association. Prior to Oak Hill Church he pastored Enon Church in Grenada. Burks received his education from Blue Mountain College, Southwestern Seminary, and Covington Seminary.

Rocky Creek Church, Lucedale, has called Charles L. Bufkin Jr. as minister of music and youth effective June 10. The Vicksburg native previously served Barefoot Springs Church.

Charles Michael Carroll has been called as pastor of Blue Ridge Church in Wetumpka, Ala. He goes to Wetumpka from First Church, Plantersville, Ala. He was born in Grenada and considers Columbus his home town. Carroll has served in churches in Columbus and the Jackson area. He also served as a missionary journeyman in the Caribbean. He is a graduate of Clarke College and Union University.



Carroll

Arlington Church, Beaumont, has called Dean Stewart as pastor. He previously served Corinth Church, Heidelberg, as youth minister. Stewart was ordained to the ministry by his home church, First, Purvis, on June 9. He is continuing his education at William Carey College.

Michael Weeks has accepted the call of Oakdale Church, Brandon, as pastor. He goes to this position from Leake County, where he served as director of missions. He holds the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary, and the B.A. degree from Mississippi College.



Weeks

Names in the news



Mrs. Billy Taylor, Acteens director, crowns Queens Amy McMillen, Amy Mayse, and Amy Boren, in a GAI/Acteens Recognition Ceremony at First Church, Byhalia.



Gum Grove Church, Brookhaven, licensed Mark Wicker, center, to the gospel ministry in a special service on June 2. Sammy J. McDonald III, right, pastor, presented the license. Brady Davis, church clerk, left, also took part in the service, which included an altar call to prayer with deacons and pastor. Wicker, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wicker of Gloster, is married to the former Lisa King of Brookhaven. He plans to enroll at Copiah-Lincoln Community College this fall.

Revival dates

Pleasant Hill, Bogue Chitto (Lincoln): July 14-19; Jim Nunellee, Belaire Church, Bossier City, La., evangelist; Tim Moak, Huecks Retreat Church, Brookhaven, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; weekdays, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Floyd F. Higginbotham, pastor.

Ingram, Baldwin (Prentiss): July 21-26; 7:30 nightly; Greg Herndon, evangelist; Shane Price, music; Joe Herndon, pastor.

Mt. Olivet (Scott): July 21-24; Sunday, homecoming services, 11 a.m. and dinner on the grounds; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Larry Duncan, evangelist; Travis Polk, pastor.

First Church, Tchula: July 21-24; J. Courtney Selvy, Hardy Church, Grenada, evangelist; Chuck McMinn, First Church, Lexington, music; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Sun.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Ladell Blanton, pastor.

Cliff Temple Church, Natchez: July 21-25; Jimmy Milliken, president of Williams College, Walnut Ridge, Ark., evangelist; Gene Chellette, minister of music, Cliff Temple Church, music; regular services on Sunday; Mon.-Thurs., 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Don Womble, pastor.

Progress Church, McComb: July 21-25; 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Sun.; 7 p.m., Mon.-Thurs.; Charles Grant, pastor, East Union Church, evangelist; Billy Simmons, pastor, will lead music.

Timberlawn Church, Jackson: July 21-24; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; nightly, 7 p.m.; Harry McGuffee, McComb native now pastoring in Troy, Ala., evangelist; Bill Perry, pastor.

Spring Hill, Hazlehurst (Copiah): July 21-24; Sun., 11 a.m.; lunch in fellowship hall; afternoon service; no night service; 7 p.m. nightly; Dolton Haggan, Crystal Springs, preaching; Johnny Jones, Shady Grove, music; Estus Mason, interim pastor.

Fair River (Lincoln): July 21-25; Gary M. Bowlin, full-time vocational evangelist from Brandon, preaching; Ronnie Duncan, minister of music at Fair River, directing the music; services each evening at 7; Greg Johnston, pastor.

Liberty Church, Noxapater: July 21-26; Hal Selby, Adaton Church, Starkville, evangelist; Tim Horton, Louisville, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7:15 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Bobby Parish, pastor.

White Oak Church, Magee: July 21-26; Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner in fellowship hall, and 1:30 p.m. service; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Dan Watts, pastor, Raymond Road Church, Jackson, evangelist; James Beasley, First Church, Crystal Springs, music; James C. Edwards, pastor.

Williamsburg, Collins (Covington): July 21-24; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Joseph Abel, Oral Church, Collins, evangelist; Gwen Hitt, Salem Church, Collins, music; G. W. Smith, pastor.

Poplar Springs Church, Hazlehurst: July 21-25; John Merck, Leakesville, evangelist; Hubert Greer, Poplar Springs Church, music; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7:30 p.m.; James Berch, pastor.

First Church, Sumrall: July 21-25; John Wilton, Long Beach, evangelist; Boyd Tweedy, Petal, music evangelist; Sunday, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Glenn Davis, pastor.

Shady Grove First Church, Heidelberg: homecoming revival, Sunday, July 21 at 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; dinner on the grounds, noon; no Sunday night service; Mon., Tues., and Wed., July 22-24, 7 p.m.; C. C. Burns, Enterprise, evangelist and singing country Gospel music each service; Sharber W. Smith, pastor; Mike Morgan, music director.

Springfield Church, Natchez: July 21-26; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; services each night, 7 p.m.; Dale Phillips, pastor, Circle Church, Baker, La., evangelist; Michael McCarty Townsend, pastor.

Big Creek, Waynesboro: July 28-Aug. 1; Bobby Rone, Refuge Church, Tallahassee, Ala., evangelist; Jimmy Knight, Waynesboro, music; Sunday, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7:30 p.m.; Barney Bagley, pastor.

Missionary news

Rick and Nedra Carter, missionaries to Argentina, will be returning to the field in December. Rick is on a study leave at USM. Their address is 407 N. 38th Ave., Hattiesburg, MS 39401.

Correction

The June 6, 1991 issue of the Baptist Record, Missionary News column, listed the address of missionaries Wayne and Florence Frederick incorrectly. The address should have read: Wayne and Florence Frederick, 133 rue Lakanal, 37000 Tours, France.

Homecomings

West Jackson Church, Jackson: July 28; 11 a.m.; Robert Wall, Clinton, guest speaker; dinner on grounds, noon; no night services; Larry H. Dunlap, pastor.

Crash killed student leader

By William Neal

ATLANTA (BP) — D. Eugene Briscoe, director of the Georgia Baptist Department of Student Work, was killed in a four-car highway accident July 8 while traveling to a meeting at Middle Georgia College in Cochran. He was 59.

Briscoe had one of the longest tenures among the Georgia Baptist Convention staff, having served with the department since 1958. He was elected director of the department in 1973. His death came as a shock to the 36 campus ministers presently serving in his department along with the thousands of college students and BSU alumni who had close contact with him over the years.

A native of San Angelo, Texas, Briscoe was a graduate of Baylor University and Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He also had done graduate work at Georgia State University. Most of his ministerial career had been in student work, but he also had held pastorates in Texas, Ohio, Kentucky, and Georgia.

He is survived by his wife, the former Jean Williamson; a son and daughter-in-law, Douglas E. and Jane Briscoe of Thomasville, Ga.; and a sister, Irene Taylor of Abilene, Texas.

Neal is associate editor, Georgia Christian Index.

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Just for the Record

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9



First Church, Magee, held a recognition service on May 26 for Acteens, GAs, Mission Friends, and RAs with the theme "God's Beautiful Bouquet." Directors for these organizations,

are Gina Laughlin, Acteens; Jane Brown, GAs; and Gilbert Winborne, RAs. Oliver C. Ladnier is pastor.

Single adults of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, are having a spaghetti supper and talent show on July 20 at 7 p.m. Spaghetti plate cost will be \$2.50.

First Church of Lambert, North Delta Association, will have a youth rally, Saturday, Aug. 3, at 7 p.m. Bobby and Lollie Ready of Baton Rouge will lead the youth rally. All youth in the surrounding area are invited.

Pine Grove, an extension of Forrest General Hospital, Hattiesburg, and Sassafras Hill Counseling Center will present a workshop on Anxiety Disorders, July 19, 9 a.m. till noon. The workshop will be held at the Life Focus Center, 1611 South 28th Avenue, Hattiesburg. Guest speakers will be Bill Spears, D.Min., and Bill Osborn, Ph.D., of Sassafras Hill Counseling Center and Duane Burgess, M.D., of Pine Grove. The workshop is free. To make reservations call 288-4900.



The pastorium of Oakland Church, Oakland, was dedicated May 19, and named The Ruby Carvan Rowe Pastorium. Mrs. Rowe remembered the Oakland Church in her will, leaving a portion of her estate to the church, which nearly paid for the pastorium. Pictured are Orland Carvan, a nephew, Mrs. Estelle Carvan Hubbard, a sister, and Linda Carvan Perry, a niece.



Acteens of First Church, Amory, at a recent Coronation Service, first row, are Queen Sarah Hill, Queen with Scepter Elizabeth Webb, Queen with Scepter Julie Burke, and Queen Laura Russell; second row, Jennifer Greenhaw, Jill Thornton, Krist Tapp, Jennifer Sanders, Madelyn Boozer, and Terri Stegall. Ron Kirkland is pastor, Helen Renfro is Acteens director, and Sunny Bourland is WMU director. The theme of service was "Acteens Really Do Care."



Baptist Young Women of First Church, Hazlehurst, recently held a Celebration Dinner honoring the twentieth anniversary of the organization. Pictured, left to right, first row, are Kim Bounds, Pam Barber, Carla Yeates; second row, Mary Vanlandingham, Becky Bozeman, Sherry Davis, Lynn Bozeman, Diane James; third row, Lisa Purser, Debbie Newman, Mandy Livingston, Louann Jefcoat, Toni Hidgon, Cheryl Guess, and Cathy Britt. Sherry Davis is president.



Concord Church, Tippah Association, on June 16 held a patriotic service and fellowship noon meal to honor military servicemen of its membership who have been on active duty, and to welcome them home. Pictured are W. G. Dowdy, pastor, Buddy Roberts, Jackie Green, Mike Lewellen, Tim Dowdy, and Ricky Jordan. Green, deacon and Sunday School director, and Roberts served at Fort Hood, Tex. and Fort Irwin, Calif. Lewellen served with the Air Guard in Saudi Arabia; Dowdy was in the Armor School, Fort Knox, Ky., and Jordan was in basic training at Fort Benning, Ga. The pastor said, "Our small church felt the absence of these five but rallied to support them and their families. We praise our Lord for their safe return. We thank them for their willingness to stand for our country and freedom around the world." (Photo by Sharon Smart.)

Big Creek Church, Waynesboro, in its morning service June 16 recognized all its fathers, and also dedicated 13 children, ages birth to 3. Its evening service celebrated the return home of troops from the Persian Gulf War and honored veterans. These included one veteran of World War I, Garner Mason, pictured forefront above, 97, a member of Big Creek. The service featured military and political speakers, patriotic music, and a potluck supper, shown. More than 200 attended, according to Barney Bagley, pastor.



Mt. Manna Church, Coldwater, Northwest Association, held a dedication service for its new fellowship hall on April 28. The church will celebrate its centennial anniversary and homecoming on Sunday, July 28 at 11 a.m., followed by a noon meal in the fellowship hall. Albert Wilkerson, pastor of Balmoral Church, Memphis, Tenn., will begin a revival at this service and preach nightly at 7:30 p.m. through August 2. Jim Clutter is pastor.

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Solomon builds the temple for worship of God

By Randy W. Turner

I Kings 5:1-7:51

Frederic Buechner in his book, *Wishful Thinking: A Theological ABC*, speaks insightfully regarding worship. He says, "To worship God means to serve him. Basically there are two ways to do it. One way is to do things for him that he needs to have done: run errands for him, carry messages for him, fight on his side, feed his lambs, and so on. The other way is to do things for him that you need to do: sing songs for him, create beautiful things for him, give things up for him, tell him what's on your mind and in your heart; in general, rejoice in him and make a fool of yourself for him the way lovers have always made fools of themselves for the one they love."

Solomon, David's son who had risen to his throne recognized the need for worship. He had a reverent love and allegiance for God and an ardent, humble devotion — characteristics that

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define worship. Along with his personal emphasis on worship came the exciting task of erecting a great temple for the worship of Jehovah God. The story of Solomon's desire to build this temple for the worship of God, his decision to carry through with the task, and his devotion to see it through to the end emphasizes that worship is essential for a vital relationship with God. That is the central Bible truth of this lesson.

I. Erecting this great temple for God requires commitment (I Kings 5:2-7). Solomon was obviously committed to the task of building this great temple. He was determined to use the choicest materials which God is certainly deserving of. Cedar, gold, and costly jewels — the choicest timber, the choicest metal, and the choicest stones were used in the building of the temple.

Solomon also sought the best talent to accomplish the work (I Kings 5:6). Much skill is needed in the felling and treatment of timber.

According to Vitruvius, a contemporary of Julius Caesar, and author of a celebrated treatise on architecture, timber must be cut in the autumn or in the winter when it is free from moisture which is apt to make it rot, and it should be cut in such a manner as to allow the sap to distill away. These and other similar precautions gave the Sidonians their fame for skill in felling timber. Neither time, nor pains, nor expense was spared in gathering together the costliest materials for the projected building.

II. As Solomon carried out his commitment, God renewed his covenant (I Kings 6:11-13). God is always faithful to keep his promises to his people. In the midst of Solomon's great work to erect the temple for the worship of God, Jehovah reminded him of his covenant. It was certainly God's promise that motivated Solomon's action to begin with, and the renewal of the covenant surely renewed Solomon's commitment to obedience.

III. After years of labor Solomon realized the completion of the temple (I Kings 7:1-2). The temple was now complete, resting on a solid

foundation composed of a great variety of materials. Its erection was gradual and silent. It was the scene of the hallowed worship of God. Any true house of God in the present day has these same characteristics. Only after God's house was completed did Solomon proceed toward finishing his own palace.

In the end God rewarded Solomon's consecration (I Kings 7:51). All of this challenges us with the importance of worship. It encourages us to live in accordance with God's commandments in response to his covenant. It causes us to reclaim his promise to continually dwell with us.

Solomon did things for God that God needed done. Solomon provided a place for people to do things for him that they needed to do. It may seem extravagant, it may even seem foolish to some, but once again in the words of Buechner, "A Quaker meeting, a Pontifical High Mass, the family service at First Presbyterian — unless there is an element of joy and foolishness in the proceedings, the time would be better spent doing something useful."

Turner is pastor, Parkway Church, Natchez.

Righting wrong — living by God's guidelines

By Kiely D. Young

Nehemiah 5

Higher taxes, rising interest rates, spiraling inflation, financial bondage!!! These complaints echo from our modern society with increasing sounds of doom. We keep moving faster to get ahead, but the faster we go, the more we get behind. The saying, "If your outgo exceeds your income, then your upkeep will be your downfall," never seemed more true than today.

These same cries were heard by Nehemiah from those folks who were helping to rebuild the broken wall of Jerusalem. The enemy was at their door to discourage them from working on the wall, but the adversary was also working in their midst to create division. They had a labor strike to improve financial conditions. The same complaints can be heard today.

Nehemiah heard THE CRY OF THE PEOPLE (v. 1). The tremendous influx of people responding to Nehemiah's call to work on the wall created a shortage of food within the city. Verses 2-3: "We our sons and daughters are many, therefore we take up corn for them that we may eat and live... we mortgaged our lands, vineyards, and houses, that we might buy corn because of the dearth." There was a shortage of money because of high taxes, (v. 4), "We

UNIFORM

have borrowed money for the king's tribute upon our land and vineyards." Artaxerxes controlled the known world and demanded heavy taxes from everyone in the region.

Greed and corruption are as old as mankind. A wise sage stated in a cartoon characterization, "We have met the enemy, and they is us." Man against man.

To make matters worse, the interest rates upon their debts became so high, some had to sell their children. Verse 5: "... we bring into bondage our sons and daughters to be servants... for other men have our land and vineyards." The creditors first took their land for their debts, then they took their children.

THE CONCERN OF THE PROPHET became apparent in his response. Verse 6: "I was very angry when I heard their cry and these words." His compassion for their condition was evident, as it should be. No one can be callous to poverty, but Nehemiah went further. His anger was not just for their pitiful plight, but more so for the reasons behind it. Nehemiah was angry because the people had forgotten the Mosaic Law. This law told the people how to live together in a just and godly fashion.

We would also do well to understand and live by God's guidelines. Notice Exodus 22:25: "If you lend money to any of my people that is poor by thee, thou shalt not be to him as an usurer,

neither shalt thou lay upon his usury." Deuteronomy 23:19-20 lends further understanding, "Thou shalt not lend upon usury to thy brother; usury of money, usury of victuals, usury of any thing that is lent upon usury. Unto a stranger thou mayest lend upon usury; but unto thy brother thou shalt not lend upon usury;" and notice WHY, "that the Lord thy God may bless thee in all that thou settest thine hand to in the land whither thou goest to possess it."

Nehemiah was angry because the complaints of the people made evident his awareness of four principles of the Law:

1. It is not wrong to lend money to a non-Jew for interest.
2. It is not wrong to lend money to a non-Jew.
3. It is wrong to demand interest on a loan to a Jew.
4. It is wrong to enslave a fellow Jew.

Nehemiah "consulted with himself and rebuked the nobles and rulers." After he reminded them of the Law (v. 8), he appealed to their godly walk (v. 9), "Also I said 'It is not good that ye do: ought ye not to walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the heathen our enemies.' Nehemiah implies, "You guys are getting rich at the expense of fellow Jews, that's against God's Law, AND the Gentiles are looking at you and saying you are different from them. Where is your distinction as God's people?"

How true is it that we are to have concern for

the poor among us. But, we must be just as concerned for the reasons behind their poverty. Are they there because our society has created their dependency through a welfare society? Have we become comfortable in affluence and piously said, "The poor we will always have with us?" we must seek God's wisdom to eliminate injustice and exhibit compassion.

Nehemiah did not stop there. He sought CORRECTION FOR THE PROBLEM. Verse 10: "... leave off the usury." Stop the sin! Make plans to correct the mistakes of the past. Verse 11: "Restore, I pray you, to them, even this day, their lands, their vineyards, their oliveyards, and their houses, also the hundredth part of the money, and the corn, the wine, and the oil, that ye exact of them." Their debts were not forgiven, only their property, giving them the means to produce income to repay the debt. The nobles responded in the manner Nehemiah requested (v. 12), but he demanded they take an oath according to their promise. Verse 13 records, "and all the congregation said, Amen, and praise the Lord. And the people did according to this promise."

God wants Christians to be responsible and just stewards of the resources he provides. We are not to be unfair debtors nor are we to be negligent in repaying our debts. We are to look at our situation and deal with the problems that face us, confessing our sins against God and man, making corrections as needed.

Young is pastor of First Church, Greenville.

Discouragement is no respecter of persons

By Don Dobson

I Kings 19:9-12, 15-16, 18-19

Two old cowboys were riding the range one day, when they happened upon two old buffaloes. Slim turned to Tex and said, "Man those buffaloes sure are ugly." Tex replied, "They sure do stink too." After the two cowboys had ridden off, one buffalo turned to his partner and said, "You know, I think I just heard a discouraging word."

There are times when we all feel the sharp stab of discouragement. Moses did. Paul did. Luther did. I do. You do too. Discouragement

is no respecter of persons. The prophet Elijah, following the dramatic confirmation on Mt. Carmel, one would expect to find Elijah sky high and full of fight. One may expect it, but just the opposite is true. The prophet was suffering from almost acute discouragement.

You and I can learn much from the experiences of Elijah.

1. Life Can Be A Roller Coaster At Times (v. 9).

LIFE AND WORK

Our discouragement sometimes follows high spiritual experiences. Elijah had his Mt. Carmel, but he also had his Jezebel. Moses had his Mt. Sinai, but he also had his twice struck rock.

Peter had his sword, but he also had his denial. We have our highs, but we also have our lows.

II. Life Can Be A Study In Self-Pity (v. 10). "I, only I, am left." Elijah threw a great party. Unfortunately, he only invited himself. People often do that when they throw pity parties. Descartes said, "I think, therefore I am." He also lived in a large jar at one time, but he was right to a degree. "I think I am useless, therefore I am." What a senseless waste of the intellect. Elijah thought, thus he was.

III. Life Can Be Reaffirmed (vv. 15-16). God presented Elijah with a new task. He was to anoint a new king of Israel, a new king of Judah, and a new prophet.

Oftentimes, a new task is just the cure for discouragement. When we have the "cave" experiences of life, it is good to look around for a fresh start. God gave Elijah an opportunity to help launch a new era for Israel.

IV. Life Can Be Meaningful When We Help Others (v. 19).

Elijah helped Elisha, Hazael, and Jehu find God's will. He was a willing instrument in the hands of the Lord. Our discouragement and our

sense of self-pity will be greatly diminished if we will but place our lives in complete trust to God. Even when we are at our lowest point, God cares and God understands.

Dobson is pastor of Collins Church, Collins.

"My mother is a Baptist" — in a Georgian Bazaar

TBILISI, GEORGIA (USSR) — Hordes of people fill the open-air bazaar in Tbilisi, Georgia (USSR), each day. It is hardly the place where a foreign Baptist expects to be recognized by anyone. Nevertheless, this is exactly what happened to Karl-Heinz Walter, General Secretary of the European Baptist Federation recently as he "walked" through the crowded market. On his first visit to the Republic, Walter and his Baptist guides decided it would be interesting to see the bazaar. As they walked through the streets suddenly a lady shouted out from a kiosk, "I know you. My mother is a Baptist." Walter and his wife Traute stopped and were introduced to the woman by their guides. She happened to be a member of one of the churches in Tbilisi and was excited when she recognized the foreign Baptists in the market, not exactly an everyday occurrence for her. She quickly made up a sample gift package of the Georgian spices she was selling. "It was a memorable experience," comments the Secretary. Improbable though it may have been, the Walters had two other experiences similar to this one while in Tbilisi. — EBPS.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Mrs. B. B. Stamps
Mr. William M. White
Mrs. Ruth R. Landers
Mr. William Dewitt Whitmire
Mr. & Mrs. David Denson
Mr. & Mrs. Ulmont T. Ammon Jr.
Lloyd G. Whitten
Mrs. H. L. Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. Walter E. Pugh & Jason
Mr. Ottis (Pete) Whittington
Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Simmons
Mr. Calvin Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Roy M. Wyrick
Mrs. Faye Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey Lee Boone
Mrs. Lottie Williamson
Mr. & Mrs. Willie D. Townsend
Jesse Wilson
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Powell & Jeremy
Mr. & Mrs. H. H. Womack
Lavon & Kate Womack
Buford Wood
Mrs. Ann Johnson
Mrs. Linda Woodruff
Red One Rook Club
Evon Woolverton
Miss Annie Louise Coats
Mr. Harold C. Wright, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. James D. Allen
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Higginbotham
Miss Jessie L. Wright
Mrs. Jack Liddell
Mr. Oscar Wynne
Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Gory
Mrs. Opal Young
Ms. Claudine Davis
Sue Reynolds

**May 1, 1991 -
May 31, 1991**

Mrs. Evelyn Abraham
Mr. & Mrs. C. W. Ingram
Mr. Claude Allen
Mrs. Carol J. Miller
Mr. Huilett Allen
Mr. & Mrs. Henry A. McCormick

Peggy Groves Altman
Mr. S. M. Dowdle
Mrs. Annie L. Andrews
Mr. & Mrs. Larry O'Conner
Delma Aron
Mr. & Mrs. Rodney Bevell
Mrs. Bailey
Mrs. Sidney B. Thornton
Mrs. Virginia Bailey
Mrs. Maude Orr
Mr. & Mrs. C. D. Pollan
Sam H. Bailey
Mrs. Lucille A. Bailey
Mr. I. H. (Coot) Bardwell
Ms. Patsy Clanton
Dr. & Mrs. A. H. Ward
Mrs. Ruth H. Barnes
Mr. Webb A. Boswell
Mrs. Cecil Boswell
Mrs. Mary Frank Bryan
Mrs. Katie Kemp
Mr. & Mrs. John L. Young
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Triplett & Patricia
Mrs. Mattie Bass
Dr. & Mrs. Eugene I. Farr
Mr. J. W. Bennett
Mrs. Sidney B. Thornton
Mr. Johnny L. Berry
Mr. & Mrs. Phil Slay & Family
Mrs. Ruth Biglane
Mrs. Carol J. Miller
Mr. & Mrs. M. L. Blackwell
Mrs. Estelle B. Smith
Mrs. Eloise H. Blass
Mrs. Roy B. Fowles
Rev. W. B. Boatner
Rev. & Mrs. Dolton Haggan
Mrs. Belle Boggan
Mrs. Ruby S. Boggan
Mr. Harley Boone
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Parker
Mr. Stanley Bowden
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald E. Carlyle
Mildred Louise Bradford
Mrs. S. H. Beatty
Stacie Bradford
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Little
Ashley Morris
Mrs. Grace Braswell
Adult II Bible Class, Galilee BC
Mrs. Maude J. Barney
Mr. Donald A. Thompson
Mr. Orville Breland
Mr. & Mrs. Ellis O. Cummins
Mr. Troy Brown
Rocky Point Baptist Church
Mrs. Bettie Wilson Brown
Mr. & Mrs. C. H. McClung
Mrs. Merle Brown
Mrs. Aline Myers
Mrs. Lettie Brunson
Fidellis SS, Paynes BC, Charleston
Mrs. Florence Baker Bryant
Howard Green Family
Mr. & Mrs. Charles L. Robinson
Euzelian SS, Raymond BC
Class of Crystal Springs High
Mrs. Catherine Buffington
Mrs. Patsy B. Ates
Mrs. Wayne Bullock
Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Kelly
Mrs. Lettie Burnham
Mrs. Dorothy Vinzant
George Burnside
Mr. & Mrs. Truitt Phillips
Mrs. Nadine Burroughs
Dr. R. C. O'Ferrall
Judge & Mrs. Joe N. Pigott
Mrs. Sarah Burton
Mr. & Mrs. Gus Evans
Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Thomas
Mrs. Mazie Byrd
Mrs. Arthur E. Wiseloge

SPECIAL MISSION ASSIGNMENT

WANTED: Child Care Staff for specialized ministries at The Baptist Children's Village. We have children and adolescents in residence who are in desperate need of caring, concerned Christians who can make a difference in their lives. Applicants must be patient, kind, loving, tolerant, non-judgmental, and willing to make personal sacrifices. Applicants may find their lives enriched in unexpected ways.

Positions are available in several locations and in various programs, including Family Clarification, Emergency Care and a specialized program for younger children who are victims of abuse. Married couples and single females may apply. We also have an opening for a female to work in our Maternity Care Program. In addition to assisting with the daily lives of the girls she would be responsible for communication with medical staff and accompanying girls to prenatal appointments and delivery. Special training will be provided.

If you would like to join our mission team and become a member of Mississippi's largest family, please call Mrs. Peggy Taylor or Mr. Henry Glaze at (601) 922-2242 or write to us at P. O. Box 27, Clinton, Mississippi, 39060-0027.

Mr. Minnie Carter
Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Knight
Mr. James C. Case
Acteons, East McComb BC
Mrs. Temple Castle
Ruth SS, FBC Marks
Mrs. Buena J. Catt
Mrs. Frank B. Hutton
John Cayson
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Atkins & Family
Audrey Chance
Mr. Marc McArthur
Mr. Jack Chance
Forest Baptist Church
Miss Carmen Margaret Chassaniol
Mr. & Mrs. Carl M. Kelly
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Peacock
Mr. Jim George Chesteen
King's Daughters SS, North Greenwood BC
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Bush
Ms. Sandra Cameron
Miss Beth Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Wayne peacock
Louie & Prince Spencer
Mrs. E. H. Neill
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Carter
Mr. & Mrs. Earl Daniels
Mr. & Mrs. L. C. Ellis
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene F. Johnson
Dr. & Mrs. Tracy J. Moser
Mrs. W. A. Switzer
Mr. & Mrs. John L. Ables
Mr. & Mrs. C. G. Bryan
Mr. Alton E. Clark
Mr. & Mrs. J. V. Parker Jr.

Mr. James M. Clark
Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Beasley & Lora
Don Davis
Mrs. Lorene Davis
Mrs. Nannie G. Clark
Mr. & Mrs. Jack B. Martin
Walter Cliburn
Mr. & Mrs. James R. Newton
Mr. Mancel Cline
Mr. & Mrs. Eugen Womack & Daughters
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Coker
Mrs. Carol J. Miller
Mr. B. C. Coker
Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Knight
Mary W. Collins
Mrs. Dewey L. Bain
Mr. Everett Conner
Allen & Jeffrie Bruton
Mrs. Everett Conner
Mr. & Mrs. Martin Knight
Mrs. Cooper
Mr. & Mrs. Fred L. Gaddis
Mrs. Clyde Cooper
Miss Loraine Norman
Mrs. Lillie Corley
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie Blount
Mrs. Mary Margaret Cox
Mr. & Mrs. Herman Coats
Mr. Clifton Cruse
FBC Mount Olive
Mrs. Bessie Daniel
Mr. & Mrs. Larry O'Conner
Mrs. Hesta Davidson
Ms. Jeanette Pullen

Mr. Jimmy Davis
Mrs. Lavelle Holloway
Mr. & Mrs. Merle A. Riley
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Speights & Family
Mrs. Irene Davis
Mrs. J. M. Leggett
Mr. W. M. Day
Mrs. Bertha Matthews
Mr. Willie Day
Mr. & Mrs. R. J. Knight
Mrs. Louise Norcom Deviney
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Owen
Mr. Hugh V. Dickey
Mr. & Mrs. Bryan W. Estes
Mrs. Carol J. Miller
Mrs. R. H. Bradford
Linda & Cailye McIntosh
Mrs. Gaines Doherty
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert Kendrick & Holly
Mr. Jim Douglas
Mrs. Dorothy Vinzant
Mrs. Etta Faye Duck
Mrs. J. P. Marsalis
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph A. Rollins
Mr. & Mrs. Elwood Crain
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Daughdrill
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Tumey
Mrs. Maude Lindsey
Duckworth
Mrs. William E. Tompkins
Mrs. Elma Bass Duncan
Mr. & Mrs. E. E. Ward
Mrs. Virginia Ellinburg
Rev. & Mrs. Gerald Castillo

(To be continued)

HONORS

Mrs. Macie Barton
Rev. & Mrs. Randle Poss
BCV Graduates
TEL SS, FBC Charleston
Mr. & Mrs. Freelan Clard
Ms. Lounez Hayes
Mrs. Ellen Daves
Mitchell-Fant SS, Calvary BC, Greenwood
Mrs. Jeanette Douglas
Mr. & Mrs. Henry A. McCormick
Mrs. Jeanette Douglas
Janette Douglas SS, FBC Magee
Trey & Brad Edmondson
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Ms. Christine Hicks
Patsy & Hubert Kendrick
Mrs. Spencer Hudson
Ms. Patricia G. Kendrick
Mrs. Eleanor S. Kallam
Mr. & Mrs. Stewart Kallam
Mrs. Lillie Mayfield
Mrs. Dorothy Kennedy
Bonita Mays
Graeber Brothers Inc.
Mrs. Doris Rogers
Ladies II SS, Oak Grove BC, Prentiss
Mrs. Buena Staten
TEL SS, FBC Charleston
Mr. Auden Whitley
TEL SS, FBC Charleston
Mrs. Ruth Carol Williamson
Rev. & Mrs. Randle Poss



Eloise Avery, Child Care Worker on our India Nunnery Campus, reads to attentive ears.



MBMC team wins Student Bowl

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center's medical technology students recently won first place in the Louisiana/Mississippi State Society for Medical Technology Student Bowl. Twelve teams from the two states participated in the competition. MBMC's team consisted of, from left, Cathie DeCantillon (alternate), Sonal Patel, Scott Wilkinson, Suzanne Smith, and David Hickman. Sonal was elected Medical Technology Student of the Year by the MSSMT and was also elected as student delegate to represent students at the National Medical Technology meeting in June.

"Baby boomers have different value system," says BSSB's Jordan

By Terri Lackey

NASHVILLE (BP) — Baby boomers expect options, convenience, and promptness, and Southern Baptist churches without these items on their menus risk losing 27- to 45-year-olds to organizations that deliver them, a leader in single adult work said.

"Baby boomers are used to options, choices. They have a quest for immediate gratification, and they are used to getting what they want. They expect all these things when they come to church," said Ken Jordan, manager of the single/senior adult section of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's family ministry department. He spoke in mid-May at a conference for single adult leaders, sponsored by his section.

Baby boomers, born between 1946-64, make up 75-77 million of the American population. Thirty-five million of those are single adults, Jordan said.

"We (Southern Baptists) are doing a great job of reaching older adults, but we are barely holding our own with baby boomers," he said. "We have to figure out how to present the gospel to people with an entirely different value system."

According to a report by the board's corporate planning and research department, some baby boomer characteristics include:

- a need for personal development and richer experiences;
- skeptic of authority;
- more risk taking;
- desire for truth, directness and candor;
- need to be treated as individuals;
- desire for fuller lives (Boomers are not content with what satisfied their parents. They want more materially, socially and psychologically).

They ask more from life regarding fulfillment, intimacy, and pleasure.;

- well educated (one-fourth are college graduates);
- non-joiners (Boomers may be attenders, but they do not become of-

ficial members.);

— spiritual concerns (While boomers have spiritual concerns, these concerns may not be expressed in traditional religious terms or ways. Boomers are interested in the meaning of life and facing life's problems, but they seek help from a variety of sources).

According to the research report, boomers are not interested in church or denominational names, Jordan said.

"They want their needs met and will go to churches that meet their needs. They may be seen as consumers looking for religious goods or services. They might attend multiple churches to have their needs met."

Baby boomers desire life-related preaching and teaching, he said.

One way churches might minister to single adult baby boomers is by offering single parenting and divorce recovery resources, Jordan said.

"Over 50 percent of boomer marriages end in divorce creating a baby boomer phenomenon of single parenting," he said. "The average length of marriage now is seven years. That is being called serial monogamy."

The family ministry department has compiled a list of recommended resources that could help churches draw single parent or divorced baby boomers into the church fellowship, Jordan said.

Meanwhile, Jordan said, churches also might "empower single adults for roles, responsibilities, stresses, and growth that go with life in the 90s. We add 10 percent more responsibility to our lives with every year that we live."

"In short," Jordan added, "one task of the church is to empower single adults for all challenges and changes bundled up in this thing we call life."

Lackey writes for BSSB.

John: "How are you this morning?"

Jim: "All right."

John: "I guess I have the wrong number."

Justice O'Connor concerned about free exercise protection

By Larry Chesser

PHILADELPHIA (ABP) — Americans may not be able to look to the U.S. Supreme Court to protect their right to the free exercise of religion, according to one member of the nation's high court.

Addressing a Bicentennial Conference on Religion in Public Life in Philadelphia May 31, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor said the Supreme Court is "narrowly and deeply divided" over First Amendment religious freedom guarantees and likely will remain so.

"I cannot, of course, predict with certainty what path the court will take. I can say, however, that doctrinal evolution is no stranger to the court. The only certainty is that debate over the direction of the court's freedom of religion and separation of church and state doctrine will continue to divide members of the court and will not be susceptible of easy solution."

O'Connor said she is "very worried" about protection of free exercise of religion following the 1990 Oregon v. Smith decision. In that ruling, the court majority abandoned its requirement that government demonstrate a compelling interest before burdening religious exercise.

O'Connor said she agreed with the result reached by the majority in upholding Oregon's ban on the use of peyote in worship by members of the Native American Church but disagreed with the decision to relieve government of its obligation to

demonstrate a compelling interest before curbing religious exercise.

"The Smith decision will, in my view, have unfortunate consequences," she said. "The free-exercise clause does not mean very much if all a state has to do is make a law generally applicable in order to severely burden a very central aspect of our citizens' lives."

The obvious effect of the court majority's view, she said, "is to turn back to the legislative branch the decision about what religious practices will be burdened and how."

Americans have grown accustomed, she said, to the involvement of the judicial branch in protecting citizens from majoritarian actions that might infringe their rights, particularly those spelled out in the Bill of Rights. "Now I don't know where that protection is going to be in the future... under the test adopted by the majority."

The court has admitted that its establishment clause rulings are marked by "considerable internal inconsistencies," due in part to inherent tensions in the religion clauses, O'Connor said.

Conflict in religion-clause cases seems unavoidable, she said, since there is "no obvious, clear road map" for administering the Constitution's religion clauses. "What is needed is a compass to point us and the court in

at least the right direction," she said.

In an effort to provide that compass, O'Connor has proposed that the court use what she calls an "endorsement test" to decide whether governmental actions violate the First Amendment ban on an establishment of religion. Under that test, government actions would have to avoid excessive entanglement with religion as well as endorsement or disapproval of religion.

"The government must be neutral in matters of religion rather than showing either favoritism or disapproval of citizens based on their personal religious choices," she said. "Government cannot endorse the religious practices and beliefs of some citizens without sending a clear message to non-adherents that they are outsiders, or less than full members of the political community."

Official acknowledgement of religion can be seen in all three branches of government, she said, noting the presence of legislative and military chaplains, the inscription "In God we trust" on the nation's coins, and the designation of religious observances as national holidays.

"Any acceptable theory of the religion clauses must try to explain why these practices either violate or do not violate the Constitution," she said.

Chesser is staff writer, BJCPA.

Lewis: Church planting isn't only issue

By Sarah Zimmerman

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — It doesn't take a professional to diagnose Larry Lewis as obsessed with church starting.

The Home Mission Board president constantly wears a button promoting a church-starting campaign. His office wall is decorated with a map depicting 22,000 places where churches are needed.

But he says he is not really a one-issue man.

"It's not fair to say I'm more interested in starting churches than evangelism. It's not fair to say I'm more interested in starting churches than ministry," Lewis said during a home missions conference at

Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

"It is fair to say that the only effective, fruitful way to evangelize this nation is to minister to its needs through New Testament churches."

The Home Mission Board's goal is to start 15,000 churches by the end of the year 2000. The 15,000 Campaign is part of the Bold Mission Thrust goal to have 50,000 Southern Baptist churches in the United States and its territories by the end of the century. In addition, Southern Baptist Convention President Morris Chapman challenged Southern Baptists to start 1,000 churches on Easter Sunday next year.

Although Lewis is a primary pro-

moter of the goal, he said, "We must not confuse our goal with our purpose. What fires us, what fuels us, is not the goal but to realize we are under the mandate of God to reach every person for Christ."

"Our real goal is to congregationalize and evangelize this nation. I believe God's plan is to sow this nation down with Bible teaching, soul-winning, ministering churches."

Reaching goals set for the year 2000 requires immediate action, Lewis said. "We dare not wait until 2000 to get excited about this goal. Jesus said the fields are already white for harvest."

Zimmerman writes for HMB.



Macedonia hears Macedonian call

Seven volunteers — men, women, and youths — from Macedonia Church, Brookhaven, worked June 24-27 on an education building at Macedonia Church, Rolla, Mo. They did carpenter work, plumbing, electrical work, and sheetrock installation. Women and youths led in backyard Bible studies and religious survey. According to the pastor, Robert H. Perry, this is the 14th year a group from Macedonia, Brookhaven, has done summer mission work. Six from McLaurin Heights Church, Pearl, also took part in the Missouri venture.

Baptist Record

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005-DIM BAPT HISTORICAL SO 00
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901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203

July 18, 1991

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205